Visitation Restrictions - Phase 2
COVID-19 – Adult Inpatients

Yale New Haven Hospital is in a Phase 2 visitor restriction. To protect our patients, families, employees and the community during the outbreak of COVID-19, YNHH is restricting visits from family, friends and the community until the transmission of COVID-19 is no longer a threat.

Visitors must arrive between 10:00am – 7:00pm and must leave by 8:00pm daily. All COVID negative patients are eligible for one visitor per day, no switching/swapping during the day, although patients can have a different visitor each day. Visitors are encouraged to limit their visit to two hours.

Please note: Visitation is not permitted for COVID positive patients, those patients on designated COVID units, or in the Emergency Department (unless an ADA or end of life exception).

Exceptions:
- One visitor to receive discharge instructions may come outside of visiting hours if needed.
- Patients that are at Imminent End of Life may have two visitors may be at the bedside at once. Swapping may occur with the patient’s immediate family only; this includes parents, spouse, sibling(s), and child(ren). There may not be more than two people at the bedside at once. All swapping must occur outside of the hospital. (Visitation may occur outside visiting hours.) For COVID positive patients at imminent end of life, there may be two visitors only; no swapping is allowed.
  - It is our first preference that visitors are not present in the room for 30 minutes (negative pressure) or 60 minutes (regular pressure) after extubation, for the visitor's safety. However, in the event that the patient is expected to die imminently post-extubation, we wanted to provide guidance to staff and visitors with a safe practice. Per respiratory care and infection prevention:
    o If a family is to be immediately at the bedside a respirator should be worn (and provided) in addition to face shield/eye protection, gown and gloves (which will need to be provided).
    o If 30-60 minutes passes post-extubation, a face mask (not respirator) is appropriate for use in addition to face shield/eye protection, gown and gloves.
- Exceptions will also be made for patients with disabilities who may need a support person with them to support their disability-related needs.
  o Patients with disabilities may include but not be limited to:
    ▪ Altered mental status
    ▪ Physical, intellectual or cognitive disability
    ▪ Communication barriers or
    ▪ Behavioral concerns
  o The support person may be a family member, personal care assistant or similar disability service provider or other individual knowledgeable about the management of their care.
  o If the hospital stay is more than one day, the patient may designate 2 people as support persons, provided only one support person may be present at a time.
  o The support person must complete screening, be asymptomatic, not confirmed positive for COVID-19 during the last 10 days, and have their temperature checked every 12 hours.
  o A COVID positive patient is allowed to have a hospital support person. If the visitor is providing care for a COVID positive patient, they should be supplied with an isolation gown, eye protection, gloves, and an N95/Respirator.
  o When patients are under the supervision of DDS, staff will work collaboratively with DDS to determine appropriate visitation to meet patient's needs.
Visitors will be expected to comply with the following:
- All visitors must pass the screening at entry to be allowed visitation.
- All patients and visitors must wear the appropriate mask while on hospital grounds. If visitor does not have an appropriate mask, one will be provided for them.
- If the visitor is visiting a COVID positive patient and are NOT providing hands on care, the visitor can continue to wear a face mask. If the visitor is providing care for a COVID positive patient, they should be supplied with an isolation gown, eye protection, gloves, and an N95/Respirator.
- All visitors should adhere to good hand hygiene and be encouraged to hand sanitize frequently.

In Addition:
- Visitors must be at least 18 years old.
- YNHH or YNHHS employees who have family members in the hospital must follow visitation guidelines.
- Additional exception requests will be determined on a case-by-case basis by clinical leadership.
- All significant issues that arise related to visitation should be directed to Patient Relations.