

## Visitation Restrictions - Phase 3 Expanded COVID-19 – Adult Inpatients

Yale New Haven Hospital remains in a Phase 3 visitor restriction. To protect our patients, families, employees and the community during the outbreak of COVID-19, YNHHS is restricting visits from family, friends and the community until the transmission of COVID-19 is no longer a threat.

**All COVID negative patients are eligible for a visitor on the 3rd day of their hospitalization, between the hours of 10a-12p or 2-6p.** One visitor per day, no switching during the day, although patients can have a different visitor each day. Visitors may only come during one of the two time windows. Patients on COVID units, regardless of COVID status or length of stay are not eligible for visitation.

**Transferred Patients:** Patients who are COVID negative and were transferred to YNH from a nursing home, rehab, or other hospital (regardless of affiliation) are eligible for a visitor on the 3rd total day of their stay. This includes counting the days from transfer. For example: Admitted to Middlesex days 1-2, transferred to YNH day 3; visitor day 3. The days count while in Middlesex.

### Exceptions:

- Inpatients that have a planned surgery or procedure regardless of length of stay may have one visitor the day **prior** to the surgery or procedure.
  - o Visitation will be between 10a-12p or 2-6p. Only one visitor per day, no handing off / swapping during those hours. COVID negative patients only.
  - o Examples would be any case going to the operating room requiring anesthesia, or any heart and vascular case requiring sedation and anesthesia.
  - o Examples of what would not be included: an endoscopy or CT scan / MRI.
- A visitor to receive **discharge instructions** to provide care at home. One visitor only (may occur outside visiting hours).
- Patients that are at **Imminent End of Life**, 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:**

- 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.