Visitation Policy for Yale New Haven Children’s Hospital

Visitation Restrictions:

To protect our patients, families, employees and the community during the outbreak of COVID-19, YNHCH is limiting visits from families until the transmission of COVID-19 is no longer a threat.

Visitation:

- Only one parent/caregiver may remain at the bedside for a COVID-19 negative patient. Parent/Caregivers may swap out with alternate parent/caregiver every 3 days until the patient is discharged.
- If the parent/guardian is not able to be at the child’s bedside, one alternate adult (21 years of age or older) caregiver may be identified by the family as a support person for the child.
- Only one person (as described above) will be permitted to be at the bedside and/or stay overnight.

All visitors will be expected to comply with the following:

- All visitors must pass the screening upon entry of the hospital in order to be allowed visitation.
- All patients and visitors must wear a mask while on hospital grounds, including in the patient’s room.
- All visitors should adhere to good hand hygiene. Visitors should be encouraged to sanitize their hands frequently.
- Restrictions equally apply to YNHHS employees who have family or friends in the hospital.

Under certain clinical circumstances listed below, a second parent/caregiver may be allowed at the bedside for a 4-hour period of time. The second parent/caregiver will be supported under the situations outlined below.

Clinical Circumstances:

1. The family is being told of a complex diagnosis or change in prognosis.
2. The family is hearing about the future treatment/education needs for a new complex disease process or needs to demonstrate hands-on skill in preparation for discharge.
3. Imminent end of life.
**Extenuating Circumstances:**

1. If the attending and/or nursing team has an extenuating circumstance with a patient/family that warrants support outside this visitation guideline, collaboration with Inpatient Nursing Director/Infection Prevention is required prior to granting approval.

2. If the child is COVID-19 positive, then one parent/guardian can shelter in place in the room with the child until discharge. To minimize the risk of transmission/exposure, there will be no switching off of the parent/guardian.

The below guideline defines a process that can help guide staff on how to recognize and continually monitor for symptoms that a caregiver may develop while at the bedside.

**Recommendation:**

All caregivers must remain in a surgical mask while in the patient’s room and in the hospital. All caregivers who remain with an admitted child will be screened for fever > 99.9°F and symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (e.g. fever, cough and shortness of breath) twice daily. This screening should take place once in the morning and once in the evening, ideally 8-12 hours apart. Screening will be performed by the patient’s nurse or PCA.

- **Caregivers who screen negative:**
  - Confirmation of the negative screening will be demonstrated by the caregiver being given a daily dated sticker to display once cleared. The caregiver must remain in a surgical mask.

- **Caregivers who screen positive:**
  - Will remain in a surgical mask and be asked to shelter in place in the patient’s room.
  - Staff/Leadership will instruct the symptomatic caregiver to go home as soon as is reasonable. The caregiver can identify an alternative healthy caregiver to replace him/her.
  - If another caregiver is not available, let social work and unit leadership know to assist with alternative arrangements.

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*RC, TM, DB, KK, JL, LS*