

COVID-19 Administrative Directive
Hospital Visitor Restrictions: RMC and Hopewell
Effective 08/03/2020 1900 hours
Updates highlighted

Capital Health has an organized approach to meeting the needs of our community regarding COVID-19. Our protocols follow the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) and the New Jersey Hospital Association.

On June 24, 2020, Governor Murphy issued a press release announcing a tristate (NJ, NY, CT) incoming travel advisory that all individuals traveling from states with significant community spread of COVID-19 quarantine themselves for a 14-day period from the time last within the identified state. The list of states subject to this travel advisory has been continuously updated. Screening staff will have a current list of states subject to the advisory.

Over the past ten days, there has been an increase of community prevalence of COVID-19 in Mercer County and an increasing inpatient COVID-19 census. Accordingly, we are reverting to more conservative restrictions on Emergency Department (ED). This updated Capital Health directive incorporates and balances patient rights and experience with best practices in infection prevention.

Visitor or Support Person Requirements for All Areas

- Visitors must not be ill, or display signs of illness (e.g. coughing, temperature > 100.0 F)
- Visitors must be age 18 or older
- Visitors must wear a facemask
- Visitors must perform hand hygiene
- Visitors must not have returned from a state currently subject to a travel advisory within 14 days.

Persons not meeting these criteria will be denied entry into the facility.

- Visitors are encouraged to sign the COVID-19 visitor waiver. Visitors refusing to sign the waiver should be guided using the scripting posted on CapitaLink. If the visitor continues to refuse, the situation should be escalated to a supervisor, administrative coordinator, or security personnel who may decide whether to admit the visitor without a signed waiver.

General Inpatient Units, Intensive Care Units and Observation Units

At this time, we are not allowing visitors in the designated COVID-19 units at RMC.

For all other inpatients, one visitor at a time will be allowed in the facility for each patient between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. daily.

Multiple visitors may not enter and congregate in lobby or unit waiting areas. Visitors must wear appropriate personnel protective equipment (generally a mask) and practice hand hygiene upon entering and exiting the patient room. Visitors are strongly encouraged to remain in the room and not travel throughout the facility, with the exception of short cafeteria and restroom visits as necessary.

The nurse manager on each floor has the authority to override this limitation and allow up to two simultaneous visitors based on **extraordinary** circumstances to assure compassion for patients and families. These situations are generally limited to end-of-life care. For end-of-life visitation only, the nurse manager or supervisor may waive the travel advisory criteria if visitors meet all other screening criteria. Clergy who meet medical screening requirements above will be permitted to visit patients as an additional visitor.

In accordance with DOH policy, patients with intellectual or cognitive disability, communication barriers or behavioral concerns may have a designated support person with them during hospitalization. This designated support person can be a family member; personal care assistant; or other disability service provider knowledgeable about the patient's care. This individual must meet COVID-19 symptom and temperature screening criteria. Personal protective equipment (PPE) should be given to and worn by the designated support person. Once in the unit, the designated support person must not access other areas of the hospital and is not permitted to leave and re-enter the hospital more than once daily.

Pediatric Inpatient Unit

Patients younger than 18 years of age may have up to two parent or guardian visitors at all hours.

Neonatal ICU

Patients may have two designated visitors. Both of these visitors may be present in the hospital at any given time. The same two individuals will be designated as visitors for the entire length of the child's hospitalization. A visitor may be present at all hours.

Obstetrics

Patients may select one visitor/support person who will have access to visitation **at all hours**. This individual will be banded with the child's information.

In addition to the designated support person, one doula may attend the patient at all hours. The doula is determined to be an essential element of the patient's health care team.

The doula will be provided with an orange band to be worn at all times.

The doula must meet all screening requirements and will have their temperature monitored twice daily.

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Emergency Department

No visitors are permitted in the Emergency Department (ED) **treatment areas**. Exceptions include patients who are younger than 18 years of age who may have one visitor. **One visitor per patient is**

permitted in the ED waiting area. Patients with intellectual or cognitive disability, communication barriers or behavioral concerns may have a designated support person in the treatment area with them during their ED care.

Outpatient Diagnostic, Procedural Areas and Operating Room Waiting Areas

Same-day surgery or procedure patients may have one support person. The support person may remain with the patient through the initial intake process and may rejoin the patient for the discharge process. **Visitors are not permitted in the Operating Room waiting area** for surgical patients being admitted after the intake process. These visitors may visit the patient after surgery on the inpatient unit under general visitation guidelines.

Visitors are not permitted in other outpatient diagnostic areas. Exceptions include patients who are younger than 18 years of age who may have one visitor. Patients with intellectual or cognitive disability, communication barriers, behavioral concerns or general debility limiting their ability to navigate the facility may have a designated support person with them during their outpatient care. This individual must meet COVID-19 symptom and temperature screening criteria and wear a facemask. At times when their physical presence is not required to assist the patient, these individuals should wait in the designated area for the relevant service and practice social distancing.

Visitation of Decedents

Decedents who are not COVID + or PUI: Two family members may visit the decedent on the clinical unit provided there is no impact on ability/capacity to care for other patients.

Decedents who are COVID + or PUI: No visitation is permitted for infection control. **The nurse manager can override this based on his or her discretion to allow one visitor.** Factors to be considered include social dynamic of family, timing in which they can arrive, and workflow/workload of the unit at that time.

No families are permitted in the morgue at any time.

Miscellaneous

There are no volunteers permitted in the buildings at this time for any volunteer position. Further guidance regarding volunteers will be forthcoming.