

Coronavirus-19 Administrative Directive  
Hospital Visitor Restrictions: RMC and Hopewell  
**Effective 11/24/2020 2000 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.

This updated Capital Health directive incorporates and balances patient rights and experience with best practices in infection prevention.

NJHA issued updated guidance on hospital visitation on November 19, 2020. This guidance provides for three general tiers of visitation (red, yellow, green). The guidance recognizes that individual hospitals and units face challenges that require specific solutions. Capital Health is following the NJHA guidance. At this time, the differing Covid volumes at each campus necessitate differences in visitation in order to protect the health of the communities we serve. **Hopewell** is currently at a **Yellow** visitation status and the **RMC** campus is at a **Red** status. Details are below.

**Visitor or Support Person Requirements for All Areas and Campuses**

- Visitors must not be ill, or display signs of illness including:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Extreme Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

- Visitors must be age 18 or older

- Visitors must wear a facemask

- Visitors must perform hand hygiene

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

**Miscellaneous**

There are no volunteers permitted in the buildings at this time for any volunteer position.

## **Belongings**

Limited belongings for COVID patients will be taken in at the front desk subject to the following considerations:

Items are accepted at the front desk only from households in which there are no known positive individuals. Family members attempting to deliver/drop off items must pass symptom and temperature checks for items to be accepted. To aid in infection control, we are only accepting limited items. These are:

- Phone
- Device Charger
- Tablet or small device
- Limited reading material

## **Visitation of Decedents: Both Campuses**

**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/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.

# Hopewell Campus

## Hopewell General Inpatient Units, Intensive Care Units and Observation Units

**For inpatients and observation patients, one visitor will be allowed in the facility for each patient between the hours of 8AM and 8PM daily. This must be the same designated individual for the entire hospitalization. This individual will be identified by a band given in the unit. The band must be shown to gain entry to the facility.**

Other persons may not enter and congregate in lobby or unit waiting areas. Visitors must wear appropriate PPE (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. Clergy who meet medical screening requirements above will be permitted to attend 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 care partner with them at all times throughout their hospitalization at either campus. This designated care partner can be a family member; personal care assistant; or other disability service provider knowledgeable about the patient's care. This individual will be identified by an orange band. Outside of designated visiting hours, this individual must stop at the lobby security desk and present the band to enter the facility. This individual must meet COVID-19 symptom and temperature screening criteria. Once in the unit, the designated care partner must not access other areas of the hospital.

## Hopewell Pediatric Inpatient Unit

Patients less than 18 years of age may have one parent or guardian visitor at all hours. **This must be the same designated individual for the entire hospitalization. This individual will be identified by a band given at the front desk. The band must be shown to gain entry to the facility.**

## Hopewell 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.

## **Hopewell 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 healthcare 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.

## **Hopewell Emergency Department**

**No visitors are permitted in the adult emergency department treatment areas.** A single designated support person may remain in the emergency department waiting area wearing a mask. In the pediatric ED at Hopewell, patients less than 18 years of age may have one parent or guardian visitor in the treatment area.

## **Hopewell 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 on the inpatient unit postoperatively under general visitation guidelines. Visitors are not permitted in other outpatient diagnostic areas including Maternal Fetal Medicine.

Exceptions include patients who are less 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 practicing social distancing.

# RMC Campus

## **RMC General Inpatient Units, Intensive Care Units and Observation Units**

**No visitors are permitted at any time.** The nurse manager on each floor has the authority to override this limitation and allow one visitor based on **extraordinary** circumstances to assure compassion for patients and families. These situations are generally limited to end-of-life care. Clergy who meet medical screening requirements above will be permitted to attend 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 care partner with them at all times throughout their hospitalization at either campus. This designated care partner can be a family member; personal care assistant; or other disability service provider knowledgeable about the patient's care. This individual will be identified by an orange band and must be the same individual throughout the patient's stay. This individual must stop at the lobby security desk and present the band to enter the facility. This individual must meet COVID-19 symptom and temperature screening criteria. Once in the unit, the designated care partner must not access other areas of the hospital.

## **RMC Emergency Department**

**No visitors are permitted in the adult emergency department treatment areas.** A single designated support person may remain in the emergency department waiting area wearing a mask. Patients less than 18 years of age may have one parent or guardian visitor in the treatment area. This individual must meet COVID-19 symptom and temperature screening criteria.

## **RMC 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.** Visitors are not permitted in other outpatient diagnostic areas.

Exceptions include patients who are less 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 practicing social distancing.