

Coronavirus-19 Administrative Directive
Hospital Visitor Restrictions: RMC and Hopewell
Effective August 11, 2021 0800 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.

NJHA issued updated guidance on hospital visitation on November 19, 2020. This guidance provides for three general tiers of visitation (red, yellow, green) which are periodically re-evaluated. The guidance recognizes that individual hospitals and units face challenges that require specific solutions. On May 6, 2021 the Division of Consumer Affairs issued Administrative Order 2021-11 giving detailed guidance on visitation and other aspects of outpatient practice management. The last several weeks have seen the emergence of the highly transmissible Delta variant. Covid-19 infections and inpatient admissions are increasing in our region. A significant portion of the population remains unvaccinated, and there have been sporadic infections in immunocompromised vaccinated persons. At this time, NJHA has not updated visitation guidelines despite this significant change in the regional risk profile. 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 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.

Volunteers

Volunteers remain permitted on a limited basis with prior approval by Dipti Padliya, Manager of Volunteer Services (dpadliya@capitalhealth.org) or 609-537-6073.

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 Hospital 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

One visitor at a time is permitted for each patient between 8 AM and 8PM daily. This does not need to be the same individual throughout the patient stay. Each visitor must meet screening criteria. At physician discretion, visitation may be limited for immunocompromised patients on a case-by-case basis.

The nurse manager on each floor has the authority to override this limitation and allow two visitors at a time 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.

Hopewell Emergency Department

One visitor per patient is permitted in the adult emergency department treatment areas at all hours. This must be the same individual throughout the ED stay. When not in the treatment area, the single designated support person may remain in the emergency department waiting area wearing a mask. This individual must meet COVID-19 symptom and temperature screening criteria.

Hopewell Outpatient Diagnostic, Procedural Areas and Operating Room Waiting Areas

Same day surgery or procedure patients may have one support person accompany them through the registration process at the front desk. Support persons may accompany patients in the holding area and wait in the Operating Room waiting area maintaining social distancing. One visitor is permitted in other outpatient diagnostic areas for patients requiring assistance.

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.

Hopewell Pediatric Inpatient Unit

Patients less than 18 years of age may have one parent or guardian visitors at all hours. **This does not need to be the same individual for the entire hospitalization. Each visitor must meet screening criteria.** These individuals 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

Visitation is limited to parents or legal guardian(s). In the event that there is one parent or legal guardian, a second support person may be designated to visit with the parent or legal guardian. The identified individuals will be banded according to organizational standard. The visitors will be the same for the duration of the admission. Visitation may be altered at the discretion of the organization and unit leadership.

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 and must be the same individual throughout the duration of the hospitalization. One additional visitor per patient who meets screening criteria is welcomed during the hours of 3p-8p. This additional visitor does not need to be the same person throughout the hospital stay.

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. This must be the same doula throughout the labor process.

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.

RMC Campus

RMC Covid-19 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 General Inpatient Units, Intensive Care Units and Observation Units

One visitor at a time is permitted for each patient between 8 AM and 8PM daily in single patient rooms. One visitor at a time per patient is permitted in double occupancy rooms. This does not need to be the same individual throughout the patient stay. Each visitor must meet screening criteria. At physician discretion, visitation may be limited for immunocompromised patients on a case-by-case basis. The nurse manager on each floor has the authority to override this limitation and allow two visitors at a time 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 Inpatient Behavioral Health Unit

No visitors are permitted at this time. The Nurse Manager may override this at his/her discretion for patients with exceptional needs who may derive significant benefit from visitation. In such cases, one designated visitor is permitted. This must be the same individual throughout the patient's stay. In accordance with the CDC and NJDOH guidelines visitors must wear a facemask at all times. Each visitor must meet screening criteria. Patients who are noncompliant with mask wearing will not be permitted to have visitors.

Outpatient Offices

One companion may accompany a patient to an office visit per DCA Administrative Order 2021-11. The companion must be screened for temperature < 100.0 F and symptoms as defined on the first page of this document. The DOH defines "Companion" as a person accompanying a patient who is a minor or accompanying a patient receiving health care services in an office, whose presence is needed to provide assistance with mobility, communication, or understanding, or as a support person for pregnancy-related care including but not limited to office-based ultrasound, genetic counseling, miscarriage management, and postpartum exams

If a person who has accompanied the patient is needed only for transportation to the appointment and not needed to be present as a companion during clinical consultation, that person should wait outside of the premises if feasible.

RMC Emergency Department

For non-Covid and non-PUI patients, one visitor at a time is permitted for each patient at all hours. No visitors are permitted for Covid positive or PUI patients.

This must be the same individual throughout the ED stay. When not in the treatment area, the single designated support person may remain in the Emergency Department waiting area wearing a mask. 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 accompany them through the registration process at the front desk. Support persons may accompany patients in the holding area and wait in the Operating Room waiting area maintaining social distancing. One visitor is permitted in other outpatient diagnostic areas for patients requiring assistance.

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.