



TO: Catholic Health Associates and Medical Staff

FROM: Hans Cassagnol, MD, MMM
Executive Vice President & Chief Medical Officer

Marty Boryszak
Senior Vice President, Acute Care

RE: Catholic Health to Temporarily Restrict Inpatient Visitation

DATE: January 12, 2022

As a result of the recent surge in COVID-19 cases that has placed significant pressure on hospital capacity across the region, Catholic Health will temporarily restrict all inpatient visitation with few exceptions beginning on Friday, January 14, 2022. In-person visitation for COVID-positive patients continues to remain restricted except for patients receiving end-of-life care.

Emergency department patients may be accompanied by one visitor for a period of time based on patient census and other factors determined by the clinical team. If the patient is admitted to the hospital, being tested for possible COVID-19, or confirmed positive while in the emergency department, staff must notify the accompanying visitor to exit the facility and advise them that further updates will be communicated via telephone.

Maternity patients will be allowed to have one support person during their hospital stay in addition to a doula, if requested, but additional visitors will not be permitted at this time.

Surgery patients may be accompanied by a support person during the initial intake registration process based on patient census and other factors determined by the surgical leadership at each facility. Support persons, if permitted, will be required to exit the facility once the patient is taken to the preoperative preparation area. All waiting areas are closed until further notice.

In-patient visitation exceptions will continue to be offered for end-of-life situations and for patients with special needs. Hospital visitors, when permitted, are required to undergo a health screening and must follow all safety guidelines, including wearing a medical-grade mask at all times (personal cloth masks not permitted unless worn with a medical-grade mask) and washing or sanitizing their hands before and after each visit. Individuals who report significant COVID-19 exposure or symptoms in the last 5 days, or have a temperature of 100.0° F or higher will not be permitted to visit.

A complete list of the most updated visitor guidelines and the online visitor form are available at chsbuffalo.org/visitors.
