



MEDIA INFORMATION
Corporate Marketing & Public Relations
Administrative & Regional Training Center
144 Genesee St. · Buffalo, New York 14203

September 23, 2022

Immediate Release

Contact: JoAnn Cavanaugh, Director Public Relations

Office: (716) 706-2061 | **Cell:** (716) 228-4886 | **Email:** jcav@chsbuffalo.org

Catholic Health to Resume Expanded Hospital Visitation Beginning September 26, 2022

Catholic Health is expanding its hospital visiting hours beginning Monday, September 26. Patients may have up to two visitors at a time between 11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. daily at Kenmore Mercy Hospital; Mercy Hospital of Buffalo; Mount St. Mary's Hospital; and Sisters of Charity Hospital, Main St. and St. Joseph Campuses. Visitation beyond normal hours continues to be permitted under certain conditions.

Visitor policies in the Mother/Baby Units at Mercy, Sisters and Mount St. Mary's hospitals are also being expanded to enable expectant mothers to have two designated support persons and a doula or midwife during labor and delivery, and throughout their inpatient hospital stay. In the Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICU) at Sisters and Mercy hospitals, the baby's mother and one support person may visit at any time. One additional visitor, accompanied by the baby's mother or support person, may be permitted to visit at the discretion of the clinical team during normal visiting hours.

Emergency Department and surgical patients may continue to have one support person accompany them to the hospital with certain limitations.

Visitation for patients who are positive for COVID-19 and/or under COVID-19 precautions remains limited due to infection control precautions, but can be permitted for exceptions such as end-of-life care or patients with special needs. Virtual visitation continues to be available when in-person visitation cannot be conducted in a safe manner.

Visitation continues to be restricted for visitors with COVID-19, who have not completed current CDC isolation criteria; those who report exposure to or symptoms consistent with COVID-19 during the past 10 days; those who have a temperature equal to or greater than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit; or those who exhibit symptoms of an illness that could be transferred to patients. In addition, all visitors must self-screen for symptoms related to COVID-19 or other transmittable illnesses prior to their arrival and comply with other infection control protocols.

Visiting hours and policies are subject to change depending on current public health conditions and regulatory guidance. New York State continues to require masks in hospitals and other healthcare settings. A complete list of Catholic Health Visitor Guidelines is available at chsbuffalo.org/visitors.

#