

TALLAHASSEE MEMORIAL HEALTHCARE  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

POLICY AND PROCEDURE NO. 120.210.077

Date Created: 2/2022

Revised: 9/2022

**VISITATION FOR COVID-19 PATIENTS**

I. **POLICY:**

- A. This policy only applies to COVID-19 patients on airborne and/or droplet isolation. Once isolation has been completed, visitation will be guided by the TMH Welcoming Policy.
- B. The patient may designate a visitor who is a family member, friend, guardian, or other individual as an essential caregiver who will be allowed to visit for a minimum of 2 hours daily. This is in addition to any other visitation authorized by the hospital for patients in any of the following circumstances:
1. At end-of-life;
  2. Living with family before being admitted to the hospital care and is struggling with the change in environment and lack of in-person family support;
  3. Making one or more major medical decisions;
  4. Experiencing emotional distress or grieving the loss of a friend or family member recently died;
  5. Needs cueing or encouragement to eat or drink which was previously provided by a family member or caregiver;
  6. Who used to talk and interact with others is seldom speaking;
  7. During childbirth;
  8. Pediatric patients;
  9. Consensual physical contact between a patient and a visitor must be allowed.
- C. The hospital requires the visitor(s) to agree in writing to follow the provider's policies and procedures by reading and signing the COVID-19 Liability Release and Waiver for Visitors, which will be placed in the patient's chart.
- D. The hospital may suspend in-person visitation of a specific visitor if the visitor violates the hospital's policies and procedures.

II. **PROCEDURE:**

- A. The patient will be encouraged to use virtual visitation as first line of visitation for all COVID-19 cases except for those at end-of-life, pediatrics, and childbirth.
- B. If virtual visitation is not satisfactory to the patient, the hospital will allow physical in-person visitation under the abovementioned circumstances.
- C. The physician, or provider, will provide education about the clinical expectations

- 53 to the patient and family prior to the initiation of visitation.  
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55 D. Appropriate colleagues (Nursing Supervisors, visitor registration desk, etc.) will be  
56 notified by the Nurse Manager or designee of visitation times and the number of  
57 visitors expected to be in attendance.  
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59 E. Family or visitors will adhere to the donning and doffing guidelines for the  
60 appropriate protective personal equipment as designated by TMH infection  
61 prevention guidelines. Clinical staff will provide and assist with the donning and  
62 doffing process.  
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64 F. It is the responsibility for Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare department managers,  
65 supervisors and clinical staff to ensure adherence and compliance of this policy.  
66 Any deviation shall be documented in the Safety Event Portal.

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68 III. REFERENCES:

- 69  
70 A. [CDC Guidelines for Duration of Isolation and Precautions for Adults with COVID-](#)  
71 [19. July 22, 2020.](#)  
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73 B. TMH COVID-19 Liability Release and Waiver for Visitors  
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78 *Signature on file in Nursing Administration*

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86 Revised: 06/2022  
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