

# Visitation Policy

To determine the current Prevalence Level for visitation, please call (478) 922-4281.

	Tier - 1	Tier - 2	Tier - 3	Tier - 4
<b>Prevalence Level</b>	Low	Mild	Moderate	High
<b>Trigger</b>	Governor Emergency Order lifted with sporadic COVID+/PUI cases	30 or fewer COVID+/PUI cases	31 – 60 COVID+/PUI cases	61 or greater COVID+/PUI cases
<b>General Visitation Description</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Visitation restrictions lifted.</li> <li>■ Visitation returns to Pre-COVID policy.</li> <li>■ Each department may have specific criteria.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Visitor allowed for all inpatient and outpatient.</li> <li>■ Visitor may be allowed for other patients depending on patient needs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Visitor for patients at end-of-life, when needed for patient's physical safety, and when needed for emotional or functional support.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Visitor allowed for patients at end-of-life and when needed for patient's physical safety.</li> </ul>
<b>COVID+/PUI Inpatient and Outpatient</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Visitors will not be permitted for confirmed COVID-19 patients and Patients Under Investigation (PUI) being screened and awaiting results.</li> <li>■ <b>Exceptions to visitation policy will be determined by the Attending Physician and Charge Nurse on duty.</b></li> <li>■ <b>Exceptions will be escalated via Chain of Command if deemed necessary.</b></li> </ul>			
<b>Non-COVID/ Non-PUI Inpatient</b>	Per department policy	2 visitors permitted per day	1 visitor permitted per day	No visitors permitted
<b>All Outpatient Services</b>	Per department policy	1 visitor permitted per day	1 visitor permitted per day	No visitors permitted
<b>Essential Visitor Criteria</b>	<p>Essential visitors are named at admission and remain consistent for the duration of the admission. Essential visitors include those who are visiting/accompanying the following patients:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Minor patients under the age of 18 – two (2) visitors allowed.</li> <li>■ Patients in labor and delivery and/or family birth centers: two (2) visitors allowed including the birth coach.</li> <li>■ Patients at end-of-life and/or in hospice/palliative care: two (2) visitors allowed daily, one (1) at a time at the bedside.</li> <li>■ Patients with scheduled surgery – one (1) visitor allowed.</li> <li>■ Patients who need a healthcare decision maker.</li> <li>■ Patients who are developmentally disabled that require full-time care.</li> <li>■ Patient rights to Chaplains and Clergy.</li> </ul>			
<b>Overnight Visitor Criteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Minor patients under the age of 18 may have one (1) visitor overnight.</li> <li>■ Patients in labor and delivery and/or family birth centers may have one (1) visitor overnight. (<i>COVID+ laboring mothers may have one (1) visitor. Visitor must wear PPE and stay inside the patient room at all times. If visitor leaves the patient room, they must exit the facility immediately and may not return.</i>)</li> <li>■ Patients at end-of-life and/or in hospice/palliative care may have one (1) visitor overnight.</li> </ul>			
<b>General Guidance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Visitation hours are from 10 am – 7 pm daily.</li> <li>■ Visitors are asked to stay no longer than one (1) hour per visit.</li> <li>■ Visitors under the age of 13 are not permitted, including for the birth of a sibling.</li> <li>■ Visitors must remain in patient room at all times and avoid waiting areas, hallways, and common areas while in the hospital.</li> <li>■ <b>Exceptions to visitation policy will be determined by the Attending Physician and Charge Nurse on duty.</b></li> </ul>			

The visitation policy applies to all Houston Healthcare locations, including:  
 ■ Houston Medical Center ■ Perry Hospital ■ Houston Health Pavilion  
 ■ Emergency Rooms, Med-Stops, and Diagnostics Centers

It is mandatory that a hospital-approved mask be properly worn over the mouth and nose at all times while at any Houston Healthcare facility. Non-charcoal filtered vented mask are prohibited. Any patient, visitor or employee who arrives without an approved mask will be provided a surgical mask to replace or cover over any mask that does not meet the appropriate guidelines.

All facilities may be accessed through the main lobby and/or emergency centers. Visitors with cough, fever, shortness of breath or other flu-like symptoms will not be allowed entry. Greeters at public entrances will continue to ask basic screening questions and temperature monitoring, guiding those seeking treatment to the appropriate location while assisting essential visitors as needed. Patients who require help with mobility will be assisted by a staff member. Patients who require help with communication will be provided Stratus video translation services.

Houston Healthcare recognizes that interacting with loved ones can be helpful to the healing process and strongly encourage everyone to utilize other forms of support for their loved ones, including phone calls and video chats on cell phones or other mobile devices. Patients have access to Wi-Fi to assist with mobile communication.

Effective: 03/08/2021



HOUSTON HEALTHCARE