



Updated Visitation Policies Effective June 24

Your safety and well-being are our top priority. Effective Wednesday, June 24th, Duke Health has modified its visitation guidelines based on recommendations from the CDC and our infectious disease experts.

Visitation Guidelines for Duke Health Hospital Locations

- Adult inpatients may **designate one support person** age 18 or older for the entire length of stay in the hospital.
 - When entering the building, the designated visitor will be required to show a form of photo identification.
 - Visitation hours are from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. daily.
- All visitors will be screened daily and required to wear a mask while in the hospital.
- No visitors are allowed to wait in the lobby or waiting rooms. Visitors should remain in the patient room and are discouraged from leaving and re-entering the facility during visitor hours.
- **Two parent/guardian visitors** may stay with a patient in a pediatric area in the hospital.
 - Pediatric surgical patients will be allowed **two parent/guardian visitors**. Only one parent/guardian visitor will be allowed in the surgical patient care area during pre-operative and post-operative care.
- There will be no visitors for COVID-19 patients or patients under investigation for COVID-19, with exceptions made for end-of-life care.
- Emergency Department patients may **designate one support person** age 18 or older. Visiting hours do not apply to visitors in the Emergency Department.
- Laboring mothers may **designate two support people**, which could include a doula. After birth, patients may **designate one support person** for the entire length of stay in the hospital. Visiting hours do not apply to these visitors.
- Patients receiving a same-day surgery may **designate one support person** to join him/her after his/her procedure.
- Visitors who are over 65, pregnant or immunocompromised are discouraged from visiting.

Exceptions may be made only under special circumstances, such as end-of-life care, with approval by the patient's care team.

Visitation Guidelines for Outpatient Surgery

- Outpatient surgical patients will be allowed **one visitor** to accompany them to facilitate care for a procedure or same-day surgery.
- Pediatric surgical patients will be allowed **one parent/guardian visitor**.
- Visitors will be screened alongside patients prior to entering the clinic.
- The visitor will be required to remain in a designated waiting room during the procedure or surgery.

Visitation Guidelines for Outpatient Clinics

- **One visitor** is allowed to accompany each patient to an appointment unless an additional aide or assistant is required.
- Visitors will be screened alongside patients prior to entering the clinic.

Additional Restrictions

- All visitors will wear masks in addition to our team members and patients who can tolerate them. Visitors may bring their own mask, or one will be provided.
- If visitors are feeling ill, they should refrain from visiting. No visitor with fever, cough, cold or flu-like symptoms will be permitted to enter.
- All visitors will be required to pass a health screening at one of our designated entry points. These screenings require everyone to sanitize their hands, have their temperature checked, put on a mask and answer questions about symptoms of illness and exposure risks prior to entering the hospital. Based on the results of this screening, visitors will be welcomed into the facility with a wristband or asked to return to their car with instructions to follow up with their healthcare provider.
- No one should visit a patient if they have come into contact with someone who is under investigation or tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days.
- We also encourage you to use virtual means to connect with your loved ones using FaceTime and Skype, in place of in-person communication when possible.

We recognize these restrictions may be difficult for you and your loved ones. This is an unprecedented time, and the COVID-19 hospital visitor policy is intended to provide additional safeguards for our patients, families, visitors and team members. Thank you for your understanding and support of our commitment to safety.