LIFESPAN COVID-19 VISITOR POLICY

Due to the evolving COVID-19 situation, this patient visitor advisory may be updated frequently. Please continue to check for any updates.

Updated: March 10th, 2020, 4pm

Changes to this policy should be directed to both:

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POLICY REVISIONS

3.10.2020 – Appendix F – Visitor/Patient Screening Form
*NEW* Appendix G - Política para visitantes del Departamento de Emergencia de Lifespan
RHODE ISLAND-HASBRO CHILDREN'S/MIRIAM & NEWPORT HOSPITALS

SECTIONS

1. Lifespan Hospitals Adult Critical Care and Inpatient Floors/Hasbro Children’s Hospital
2. Lifespan Emergency Departments
3. Hasbro Children’s Hospital
4. Newport Hospital Birthing Center
5. Outpatient Services
6. Students, Vendors, Contractors, Interpreters, OR/Cancer Center, Volunteers
7. Medical Students/Visiting Residents

APPENDICES

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B. COVID 19 – Attestation of Good Health
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SECTION 1
ADULT CRITICAL CARE AND INPATIENT FLOORS

This policy applies to all inpatient care units, including critical care, the behavioral health floors and the Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities

- At this time, no visitors are allowed in the hospital.
- In specific circumstances, such as end-of-life care or a patient in need of a medical guardian/decision-maker, care teams will have latitude to make the appropriate decisions.
  - If the patient’s condition requires the visitor to wear a mask during the visit, a paper bag will be issued for the visitor to take the mask home. The visitor is expected to reuse the mask for each visit, as long as the mask is functional.
- No visitor will be allowed to visit if they have any flu-like symptoms such as cough, sore throat, or fever, regardless of the source of those symptoms. No children under the age of 18 will be allowed to visit.
- Visitors in violation of these rules will be removed from the premises.
- In the event of the need for a family meeting for the discussion of medical decision-making, family members will be asked to participate by phone from home.

However, even in the case of exceptions, any family member or visitor with a travel history to mainland China, South Korea, Iran, Italy or any of level 1, 2 or 3 areas as outlined by the CDC in the last 14 days are not allowed to enter the hospital. This information is constantly updated on the CDC website and may be found in the following link: [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html)

HASBRO CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL

Only two identified individuals (e.g. parent/guardian/medical care-giver) may be with the patient for the entire stay. Only one of these individuals may visit at a time
SECTION 2

LIFESPAN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS

General Criteria:
Accompanying patients who are not a PUI: No visitors, one individual with exception (parent, guardian, or healthcare proxy).

Accompanying patients presenting as a PUI or suspected PUI:
- Critically Ill patients – 2 family members, of which one is the healthcare proxy. Exceptions in the case of dying patients.
- Asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic patients – No visitors, one individual with exception (parent, guardian, or healthcare proxy). Visitors will be restricted to the patient’s room. Any visitor not necessary to the care of the ED patient should be encouraged to leave and make him/herself available by phone.

Visitors will be screened by the CDC/DOH criteria for Coronavirus. Anyone who screens positive will not be allowed to enter the Emergency Department unless they are the only parent, guardian or healthcare proxy of the patient. The screening criteria are:

- Anyone with a travel history to an area with widespread or sustained COVID-19 in the last 14 days are not allowed to enter the Emergency Department.
- Anyone who has had contact with someone who traveled to those areas and returned in the last 14 days and who is ill.

General Guidance:
- When in question, the healthcare proxy determines the visitors.
- Visitors will be given a standard wristband or Visitor Pass associated with the patient they are accompanying.
- Visitors with a PUI will be restricted to the patient’s room and unable to utilize any other ED or hospital resources (bathroom, cafeteria, etc.)
- Visitors with no concerning travel history but symptoms of sniffing, sneezing, coughing, or fever will be asked to wear a mask during the entire ED visit.
- Pregnant, immunocompromised, or elderly (age >60) visitors and siblings will be discouraged from entering.
SECTION 3

NEWPORT HOSPITAL BIRTHING CENTER

Temporary limitation of visitors to The Birthing Center

- Only the birthing partner and a Doula, if pre-approved, will be allowed on the Birthing Center.
- A wrist band will be provided and will include the patient’s last name and the last 4 digits of the MRN. The band must be worn to allow access to the Birthing Center.
- If the mother’s condition requires the visitor to wear a mask during the visit, a paper bag will be issued for the visitor to take the mask home. The visitor is expected to reuse the mask for each visit, as long as the mask is functional.
- Visitors will be screened using the standard criteria for visitor screening.
- Every visitor must be checked in at the desk prior to visiting and must show their wrist band.
- After 8 pm, no visiting is permitted.
- No visitor will be allowed to visit if they are sniffling, sneezing or coughing, regardless of the source of those symptoms. No children under the age of 12 will be allowed to visit.
- Visitors in violation of these rules will be removed from the premises.
- Exceptions may be made at the sole discretion of the medical/ nursing team.
SECTION 4

STUDENTS, VENDORS, CONTRACTORS, INTERPRETERS, OR/CANCER CENTER, VOLUNTEERS
Vendors, Contractors, Students, Interpreters, OR/Cancer Center, Volunteers, etc.

PA Students (Johnson & Wales/Bryant University); Nurse Practitioner students

- Will be allowed as their assistance may be needed
- The PA/NP Schools will receive an email communication with an attestation that they will need to have their students sign prior to any Lifespan clinical rotation. This will need to be submitted to the supervisor of the rotation in advance prior to starting the rotation

Clinical Observers

- Will not be allowed until further notice

Students (Nursing, Rehab, Diagnostic Imaging, Pharmacy, other Clinical)

- Will be allowed due to potential need for their assistance.
- Nursing schools will receive an email with an attestation that they will need to have their students sign based on the screening questions currently in place for all employees. Sue, Lynn and Kathy will draft email.
- When student arrives at Lifespan location their proctor/supervisor/mentor (person with oversight for their work/education onsite) will also review the attestation and have them sign it.
- Same requirements for our employees regarding screening for work. Cannot work if cold/flu symptoms.
- Dana Palka to work on formatting and standardizing the attestation document. All will adopt and use the same document. Will provide today or tomorrow.

Students - High School, Interns (non-clinical), Shadowing Requests, etc.

- No - for duration of restricted visiting/COVID-19
- Responsible Lifespan employees will be required to reach out to the students/schools themselves to inform them not to come in until they are contacted that the restrictions on visitation has been relaxed or discontinued.

Vendors/Sales Reps

- RepTrax machines will be located at whatever entrances we use (may need to move machines from current locations)
- Vendors will be notified that they can only come onsite for required business by appointment. Advance screening needed to even come to Lifespan. Only essential visits allowed.
- Screening questions/attestation same as outlined above for students will be programmed into RepTrax machines and required to answer. If any of the questions are a "YES" a badge will NOT be printed, and the vendor must leave.
- Some of the above will be dependent on plan for entrance screening for all locations.
- Vendors with no legitimate business or need to be onsite or in any areas/locations will not be allowed
**Contract Staff (Contractors, Technicians, Service Technicians)** –
Screening consistent with Lifespan employees. Will use same attestation if needed, as used for students.

- Will also notify contract staff employers to ensure they are also pre-screening staff to be assigned or sent to Lifespan locations.
- Aramark/Security Contractors - will follow same screening procedures as Lifespan employees

**Periop/OR Locations**

- For patients requiring sedation, 1 Visitor or Escort (screened on arrival) will be allowed

**Cancer Center**

- For patients - 1 Visitor or Escort (screened on arrival) will be allowed

**Interpreter Services**

- To preserve PPE, Video-Remote Interpreting (VRI) and Language Line will be utilized first (and whenever possible)
- Second to VRI/Language Line phone, we will use Lifespan-employed interpreters since depending on exam/test or nature of the communication a live interpreter is the only or preferred option.
- ASL (American Sign Language) interpreters who are onsite will follow same pre-screening requirements as Lifespan employees. Partners, our ASL vendor will continue to pre-screen all staff before they arrive on site.
- Other vendors for interpreters have been contacted and they are pre-screening their staff before deployment, but they will ONLY be used if we cannot use VRI/Language Line - Phone) or employed interpreter.

**Volunteers**

- Volunteers allowed – subject to same screening as Lifespan employees
- Will discourage volunteers who come onsite for simply social activities and if they are 65+ years of age.
- Community clergy are considered visitors - not allowed unless a special circumstance

**Other**

- DCYF, DEA, DOH - same screening as for Lifespan employees. Peer Coaching/Opioid and Substance Abuse interventions in ED (to follow policy outlined by ED team)

**Service Animals**

- True trained Service Animals are acceptable. Comfort Dogs - NOT ALLOWED

**Visitors/Staff from Women and Infants (thru RIH tunnel)**

- W&I staff/clinical staff - Subject to same screening and visitor policy adopted for Lifespan employees
- Will have entrance on our end manned with someone who will screen
- Will follow same as hospital policies for family/other visitors (pediatric and adult policies)
Outpatient - Community Services/Support Groups, etc.

- These will be canceled for our Lifespan locations until visitor restrictions change
SECTION 7
MEDICAL STUDENTS/VISITING RESIDENTS

Please check back for information
Visitation suspended at Lifespan hospitals

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – In light of local cases of COVID-19 and national and international instances of exponential spread of the disease, Lifespan hospitals are now taking measures to minimize traffic and potential exposure in our hospitals, protecting patients and staff.

Effective immediately, no visitors will be allowed in adult units at our Lifespan hospitals. Hasbro Children’s Hospital and Bradley Hospital will have modified policies to allow for accompaniment by a parent(s). Newport Hospital maternity services will allow for a birthing partner only.

Patients arriving at the emergency department will be limited to one accompanying adult, and that person’s duration of stay in patient areas will be minimized.

“We have decided after great deliberation to take this step in these highly unusual circumstances to protect our patients and our workforce. We understand this is a great hardship to both patients and families, but we know that older and sicker people are most vulnerable to this novel coronavirus, and after careful evaluation of the evolving risks of transmission, we felt it was the most prudent thing to do,” said Timothy J. Babineau, M.D., president and CEO of Lifespan.

Care teams will make exceptions in specific circumstances, such as end-of-life care or a patient in need of a medical guardian/decision-maker. Patients and families should discuss any special requirements with their care team.

Simple precautions remain the first line of defense against respiratory viruses. Lifespan urges the public to please continue to follow the usual guidelines:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if you’re unable to wash your hands.
• Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
• Cover your cough or sneeze into your elbow.
• Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
• Clean and disinfect objects and surfaces that are touched frequently (e.g., phones, doorknobs).
• Stay home if you are sick.

Lifespan is committed to continually monitoring and evaluating the situation, and will continue to act in the best interest of our patients and employees. As of Monday morning, we have enacted incident command centers at each of our hospitals. We thank our patients and their loved ones for their understanding as we work to ensure a safe environment for our patients and our workforce.

About Lifespan
Lifespan is a five-partner not-for-profit health system based in Providence, R.I. Formed in 1994, Lifespan includes three teaching hospitals of The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University: Rhode Island Hospital and its Hasbro Children’s Hospital; The Miriam Hospital; and Bradley Hospital, the nation’s first psychiatric hospital for children. It also includes Newport Hospital, a community hospital offering a broad range of health services, and Gateway Healthcare, the state’s largest provider of community behavioral health care. Lifespan teaching hospitals are among the top recipients in the country of research funding from the National Institutes of Health. The hospitals received $92 million in external research funding in fiscal 2019. All Lifespan-affiliated partners are charitable organizations that depend on support from the community to provide programs and services.
APPENDIX B

COVID 19 Attestation of Good Health

In order to ensure the health of our patients, colleagues and families, all non-employed Lifespan personnel (e.g., students, instructors, contract labor and vendors) must attest to the following:

_____ I do not have a fever.

_____ I do not have a sore throat.

_____ I do not have a new onset cough.

_____ I do not have cold, flu-like or other respiratory symptoms.

_____ I have not traveled from high risk areas identified by the CDC in the last 14 days. You must review this link prior to signing this section [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html)

_____ I have received/confirmed pre-approval to enter the appropriate Lifespan facility.

_____ I will report any changes verified above to my manager/appropriate Lifespan personnel immediately.

**In Addition:**

_____ I will perform hand hygiene immediately before patient contact.

_____ I will perform hand hygiene immediately after patient contact.

*All statements must be initialed.*

I hereby attest that that the above initialed statements are true and accurate.

______________________________
Print Full Name

______________________________
Signature                      Date

______________________________
Employer/Organization/School
APPENDIX C

To our Birthing Center patients and families:

In light of the developing Coronavirus outbreak, we are working hard to protect all patients and their loved ones by reducing traffic on our Birthing Center. We understand the desire of families and loved ones to gather before, during and after the birth of a baby, however we must balance that with our responsibility to keep our patients and community members safe. This means the following temporary changes to our visitation policy:

- Visitation will be limited to ONLY the birthing partner. A pre-approved Doula may be present until after the birth. The birthing partner and Doula, if pre-approved, will be given a wrist band.

- No other visitors will be permitted, including siblings or children under the age of 12.

- All visitors must check in at the desk.

- After delivery, there will be no visiting hours after 8 pm. The birthing partner may spend the night with the mother and baby.

- Visitors will be screened using Department of Health criteria and will not be allowed to visit if they have a fever, cough or flu symptoms.

We apologize for the inconvenience but please understand that at this time, we are acting in the best interest of our mothers, their new families and the community at large.

Sincerely,
March 9, 2020

To Our Patients and Families:

In light of the developing Coronavirus outbreak, we are working hard to protect patients and their loved ones by restricting traffic in all our patient care areas to essential medical staff only. We understand the desire of patients, families and loved ones to be together during illness or hospitalization, but we must balance that with our responsibility to keep our patients and community members safe. This means the following temporary change to our visitation policy:

- No visitors will be permitted in patient care areas.
- Family meetings to make health care decisions on behalf of the patient will be organized by phone from home.

Exceptions may be made for patients at the end of life, or when a visitor must also act as a medical decision maker, at the discretion of the medical/nursing team. Please discuss any special considerations with your care team.

We understand the hardship these restrictions impose on individual patients and families, but please know that we are acting in the best interest of all our patients, families and the community at large.
APPENDIX E

GENERAL SCRIPTING

General Medical/Surgical and Critical Care Units

I’m sorry, but we are not allowing visitors at this time to protect our patients. People who are elderly or sick are the most vulnerable to the Coronavirus, so we are working to keep everyone safe from exposure.

We understand that it’s hard not to be able to visit. We are encouraging friends and family to use the phone.

[If visitor has extenuating circumstances: end of life, medical decision-maker, etc] We are making exceptions for certain circumstances—it’s up to the patient’s care team to decide. Please wait a moment while I call up to the unit. Thank you so much for your patience.

[Screening questions if they can go up? Travel, symptoms, family members with travel or symptoms?]

Pediatrics

I’m sorry, but we are not allowing visitors at this time to protect our patients. Only one parent or guardian or medical decision-maker can accompany/visit with a child.

[If they ask why] People who are sick are the most vulnerable to the Coronavirus, so we are working to keep everyone safe from exposure.

We understand that it’s hard not to be able to visit. We are encouraging friends and family to use the phone with older children.

[If visitor has extenuating circumstances: end of life, medical decision-maker, etc] We are making exceptions for certain circumstances—it’s up to the patient’s care team to decide. Please wait a moment while I call up to the unit. Thank you so much for your patience.

[Screening questions if they can go up? Travel, symptoms, family members with travel or symptoms?]

NH Birthing Center

I’m sorry, but we are not allowing visitors at this time to protect our new mothers and babies. Only the mother’s birthing partner can accompany/visit with the mom and baby for now.

[If they ask why] We are working to keep everyone safe from exposure. Thank you for understanding.

We know it’s hard not to be able to visit. We are encouraging friends and family to use the phone as much as possible.

[If visitor has extenuating circumstances: end of life, medical decision-maker, etc] We are making exceptions for certain circumstances—it’s up to the patient’s care team to decide. Please wait a moment while I call up to the unit. Thank you so much for your patience.

[Screening questions if they can go up? Travel, symptoms, family members with travel or symptoms?]
Emergency Department

I’m sorry, but we are not allowing visitors at this time to protect our patients. Only one person can accompany the patient, if needed to answer questions or help give some background.

People in the hospital are the most vulnerable to the Coronavirus, so we are working to keep everyone safe from exposure.

We understand that you want to be with the patient. We’ll take good care of them, and you can check in by phone.

[If visitor has extenuating circumstances: end of life, medical decision-maker, etc] We are making exceptions for certain circumstances—it’s up to the patient’s care team to decide. Please wait a moment while I check. Thank you so much for your patience.

[Screening questions if they can go up? Travel, symptoms, family members with travel or symptoms?]
APPENDIX F

COVID 19 Visitor/Patient Screening Form

1. All screeners, when within 6 feet of a patient/visitor, should wear a mask with eyeshield (please sanitize hands and place in paper bag for reuse)

2. Ask visitor/patient to sanitize their hands

3. Ask the visitor/patient why they are visiting the hospital today.

**Patients presenting for testing/therapy/procedures/outpatient visits:** No additional person can accompany unless authorized (see Visitor Recommendations)

- Do you have a fever, sore throat, new onset cough, respiratory or other cold symptoms?  O Yes  O No

- Have you had close contact with someone who has confirmed or suspected COVID-19 in the last 14 days?
  O Yes  O No

- If the patient answers yes to travel history to a high-risk location and they have ANY symptoms, they will be asked to leave. Please suggest that they call their PCP

- If patient has respiratory symptoms (regardless of travel) and testing is elective, please ask that they reschedule

- Do not send patients to the ED unless symptoms are severe. If they need to go to the ED, immediately notify the ED. Otherwise, suggest that they call their PCP.

**Visitors:** Please explain to the visitor that we’re sorry but we’re not allowing visitors at this time to protect our patients, employees and the community. Ask them to please understand that our patients in the hospital are among the most vulnerable to the Coronavirus. We are encouraging visitors to use the phone as an alternative.

If the visitor is allowed (based on the attached Visitor Recommendations) please ask the following screening questions:

- Do you have a fever, sore throat, new onset cough, respiratory or other cold symptoms?  O Yes  O No

- Have you had close contact with someone who has confirmed or suspected COVID-19 in the last 14 days?
  O Yes  O No

If EITHER answer is yes regardless of the circumstances in which they are visiting, please explain that we’re not allowing anyone with symptoms or who has traveled from high risk areas identified by the CDC to visit.
If the visitor meets criteria for visitation (birth partner on TBC, parent/guardian of Hasbro Children’s patient, end of life family member, decision maker for cognitively impaired patient) please call the primary nurse on the unit for authorization.

Name of Visitor(s) being allowed to visit:
__________________________________________________________

Name of patient the visitor(s) are visiting if applicable:
__________________________________________________________

Name of location being visited: _____________________      Date: __________

Ask permitted visitors to wear a badge/sticker and perform hand hygiene NOW and each time they enter or leave the patient’s room

Visitors get a red badge/sticker. Patients coming for testing get a blue badge/sticker. WRITE THE NAME OF THE VISITOR ON THE BADGE