

Deborah Heart and Lung Center

Limited Visitation Guidelines during COVID-19 Pandemic

Effective Date: 8/3/2020, revised 9/15/20

The patient population at Deborah Heart and Lung Center is at the highest risk stratification for Covid-19, including the most severe complications and death from the virus. The fact is that 100% of Deborah's patients have underlying comorbidities such as cardiac disease, pulmonary disease, and /or vascular disease, as well as the average age being > 68 years. However, to comply with the intent of the NJ Department of Health Executive Directive No. 20-018 Number 5.c Page 10, the following guidelines will be adopted:

Guidelines for Visitation:

- 1) Visitation will be limited to ONE designated visitor/patient at a time, and up to TWO visitors/patient per day. Must be 18 years of age older.
- 2) All visitors will be screened upon coming into the Hospital and prior to visiting their loved one.

Screening will include, but not be limited to:

- a. Completion of the Visitation Screening Tool – responses to the questions on the screening tool will determine a person's eligibility to visit.
 - b. Temperature Check - Visitors with a temperature equal to or above 100.0 degrees F will not be allowed to visit.
- 3) Visitors from states on the New Jersey "travel advisory list" at the time of visitation will be prohibited from visiting.
 - 4) Visitors must correctly wear a face mask at all times while in the hospital, any visitor who fails to correctly wear a face mask will be asked to leave the facility. Correctly wearing a face mask includes covering of the nose and mouth.
 - 5) Visitors must:
 - practice social distancing of at least 6 feet between themselves, other visitors, hospital staff, and the patient
 - wash hands before entering the patient's room and after visiting patients
 - must remain in the patient room or at the bedside throughout the visit
 - may not wander the halls or go to the hospital cafeteria, visitors are allowed in the coffee shop located on the first floor lobby waiting area
 - visitors may not bring anything into the hospital, including, but not limited to, food or drink unless approved by the patient's nurse in advance of the visit
 - 6) Patients who are COVID Positive or PUI will not be permitted visitors
 - 7) Times of Visitation are as follows:
 - 1:30p to 4:30p Monday – Friday
 - 1:30p to 4:30p Sunday
 - No visitation on Saturday

- Visitation to the Intensive Care Units will only be allowed for 15 minutes
 - Visitation elsewhere will only be allowed for 30 minutes
- 8) For patients who are cohorted in a room with another patient, visitation will be permitted but still must abide by ONE visitor/patient at a time.
 - 9) No change in current visiting policy for outpatient appointments

Exceptions:

- 1) Patients who are at the end of life, current visitation guidelines remain intact. Visitation is granted on an individual basis, times and days are exempted from above.
- 2) Patients with special needs or neurocognitive disability, or behavioral concerns may have ONE visitor, parent or guardian at all times if needed.
- 3) Above screening criteria for all visitors still applies.

In addition visitation through the use of technology: IPAD is still available and can be utilized at any time.

This is subject to change at any time based on potential changes for the safety of our patients and staff.