Phase 3 Visitor Restrictions for all MercyOne Facilities

Updated July 30, 2021

In recognition that patient support from a family member or friend contributes to patient experience, safety and healing, we desire to balance these important elements with the need to protect patients and colleagues from unnecessary exposure to COVID-19. We also recognize that different regions of the country experience the pandemic differently at any given point of time. This guideline is intended to offer a more relaxed restriction of visitors during periods of time when the virus is less active in a state or region.

Threshold trigger to move to Visitation Phase 1-3:

- Must have less than 50 active cases/100K in the prior 7 day period for the regional defined service area located on the CDC’s County Data Tracker [https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view](https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view) and on the MercyOne Active Case Count Report
- Service areas include multiple counties, not just the county within the hospital zip code
- If the regional threshold is exceeded, all facilities and clinics in that region must go back to Phase 1 or Phase 2 visitor restrictions
- If local/individual county rates exceed 50 active cases/100K in the prior 7 day period; local decisions can be made to go back to phase 1 or phase 2 visitor restrictions

Phase 3 visitation allows 2 visitors, of at least 18 years of age, per patient at a time in the facility. This guidance applies to all patients excluding COVID-19 positive or PUI patients.

Key Considerations for Regional Leadership Team:

- The hospital will determine visiting hours.
- Visitors must undergo screening at entrance to ministry for symptoms of possible COVID-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea).
  - Any potential visitor with symptoms of a respiratory infection should not be permitted to enter the facility at any time (even in end-of-life situations).
- All visitors must wear a simple surgical mask for the duration of the visit and be encouraged to perform hand hygiene and maintain social distancing. Visitors who fail to agree to wear a mask will be asked to leave.
- The visitor may not be present during any intermittent or continuous aerosol generating procedures (AGPs) during the visitation.
- Congregation in public spaces should be minimized where it is difficult for individuals to remain spaced at least 6 feet apart (i.e. cafeteria, waiting rooms, etc.).
- Visitors should be encouraged to limit their visit to a certain number of hours, e.g. no more than two hours, per day, depending on the patient’s status and condition.
- Visitation to COVID-19 positive or PUI patients is prohibited unless permitted by state/local law or if the patient meets compassionate care exception criteria:
  - Children (minor) admitted to the hospital
  - Maternity units
  - NICU
Patients receiving end-of-life (EOL) care – see section End of Life (EOL) Visitor(s) for PUI or patient with COVID-19 below for additional guidance

- Developmentally/Cognitively Impaired adults
  - The visitor to PUI or those with COVID-19 must be in a single patient room or be the only patient in a multi-occupancy room.
  - The visitor to PUI, confirmed COVID-19, or other patient in isolation precautions, will be encouraged to use hand hygiene just after entering the room and upon exit and should don appropriate PPE.
  - A facility may suspend visitation at any time when it deems warranted (medical necessity; PPE availability, etc.).