

**NASSAU HEALTH CARE CORPORATION  
EAST MEADOW, NEW YORK 11554**

**SECTION: LEADERSHIP (LD)  
POLICY/PROCEDURE**

<u>TITLE:</u> <b>Enhanced Visitation Policy (COVID-19)</b>
Approved: <b>Quality and Policy Advisory Council</b>
<u>Cross References:</u> <b>LD-303</b>

**1.0 POLICY**

1.1. It is the policy of the Nassau Health Care Corporation (NHCC) to provide a safe environment for all patients, visitors, and staff by monitoring hospital access. NHCC recognizes the important role that family members and visitors play in a patient's healing process and promotes a patient-centered approach to care. The purpose of this policy is to define and set expectations regarding persons visiting hospitalized patients amid the outbreak of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in New York.

**1.2. Definitions**

- 1.2.1. Patient – anyone admitted to NUMC or being clinically treated in any of its Emergency Departments or outpatient clinics.
- 1.2.2. Visitor – anyone else who is not an employee of NHCC, not a vendor, and present for a legal and lawful purpose. Included in this category are invited guests of employees and delivery persons.
- 1.2.3. Justified Clinical Restrictions – any clinically necessary restriction or limitation imposed by NUMC on a patient's visitation rights which restriction or limitation is necessary to provide safe care to the patient or other patients. A Justified Clinical Restriction may be based on, one or more of the following: (i) a court order limiting or restraining contact; (ii) behavior presenting a direct risk or threat to the patient, NUMC staff, or others in the immediate environment; (iii) behavior disruptive of the functioning of the patient; (iv) the patient's risk of infection by the visitor; (v) the visitor's risk of infection by the patient; (vi) extraordinary protections because of a pandemic or infectious disease outbreak; (vii) substance abuse treatment protocols requiring restricted visitation; (viii) the patient's need for privacy or rest; (ix) when the patient is undergoing a clinical intervention or procedure; and (x) reasonable limitations on the number of visitors at any one time.

## 2.0 PROCEDURE

2.1 **For Visitors and Caregivers.** The following patient visitation guidelines help avoid the spread of infection resulting from COVID-19, ensuring a safe environment for all:

2.1.1 To protect the care of our patients, the following groups should not visit any NHCC campus unless they are seeking treatment:

**2.1.1.1** Those who are ill, and

**2.1.1.2** Children under the age of fifteen (15)

2.1.2 **Visitors will be screened for illness prior to entering patient areas. Sick visitors will be asked to leave.**

2.1.3 Additional restrictions may be imposed based on the patient's clinical status.

**2.1.3.1** Inpatient locations

**2.1.3.1.1** **Visitors are not permitted at this time except for end of life care or on a case by case basis.**

**2.1.3.1.2** Two visitors per pediatric patient are allowed in the pediatric units, limited to parents, guardians, or family care partners only.

**2.1.3.1.3** Two visitors per patient are allowed in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, limited to parents or support persons only.

**2.1.3.1.4** Two visitors are permitted for obstetric patients, limited to partners and grandparents only.

**2.1.3.2** Emergency Departments (ED)

**2.1.3.2.1** Adult patients are not permitted visitors; exceptions will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

**2.1.3.2.2** Pediatric patients may have two visitors, limited to parent or caregiver only.

**2.1.3.3** Ambulatory and Outpatient Locations

**2.1.3.3.1** VISITORS are suspended.

**2.1.3.3.2** Suspended.

2.1.4 All visitors should self-screen for contagious diseases before arriving at any NHCC campus and before accessing patient care areas.

**2.1.4.1** Have you experienced any of the following in the last three days?

**2.1.4.1.1** Fever

**2.1.4.1.2** Cough

**2.1.4.1.3** Runny or stuffy nose

**2.1.4.1.4** Vomiting or diarrhea

**2.1.4.1.5** Shortness of breath/respiratory symptoms

**2.1.4.2** Have you been exposed to or come into contact with someone with the following in the last three days?

**2.1.4.2.1** Influenza

**2.1.4.2.2** Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

**2.1.4.2.3** Diarrheal illness or 'stomach bug'

**2.1.4.2.4** COVID-19

2.1.5 **Visiting Hours- SUSPENDED**

2.1.6 **Package Inspection**

**2.1.6.1** To ensure the safety of our patients, visitors, and staff, the NHCC reserves the right to search packages entering and leaving any of our facilities.

2.1.7 **Visiting Restrictions**

**2.1.7.1** Visiting may be denied or further restricted in some instances pursuant to Justified Clinical Restrictions identified in Section 1.3.3.