



Phase I Visitation Policy

Inpatients and Outpatients

All Forrest Health Hospitals and Clinics will follow the guidelines for visitation as outlined per the Mississippi Department of Health.

We trust you to help us keep our patients safe. **Any non-patient (not seeking treatment) who has shortness of breath, fever, cough, or has been in contact with someone who has COVID-19, or is being tested for it should not enter Forrest Health facilities.**

All visitors MUST check in and out through one of our designated entrances. Upon entry all visitors will be screened, temperature checked, logged into the visitor log, visitor sticker issued with destination, and mask required.

Inpatients under suspicion for or diagnosed with COVID-19:

- No inpatient visitors.
- Rare exceptions will be made in end-of-life and special circumstances, such as when the visitor is essential for the patient's emotional well-being and health. The Administrator, CNO, House Supervisor, and/or designee must approve any exceptions.

Non-COVID-19 inpatients AND outpatients (of all physician practices, rehab, imaging, and all outpatient locations):

- **Inpatients:** One patient visitor is permitted.
- **Inpatient surgery patients:** One patient visitor is permitted for the patient's pre-op and post-op visit.
- **Outpatient surgery patients:** One visitor is permitted during the procedure, for post-surgery discussion, and for assistance with discharge.
 - If, during clinical assessment, the patient becomes a person under investigation for COVID-19, we will take the visitor's name and contact number and request that the visitor leave the facility and wait in their

vehicle. All future communications with that visitor will be over the telephone or via IPAD teleconference. Hospital leadership will approve on-site visitor of patients who test positive for COVID-19 in special circumstances only.

- **Emergency Department:** One patient visitor is permitted.
- **Obstetrics and L&D:** Patients will be limited to the same one visitor per patient for the entire stay (i.e. partner, doula).
 - Visitors must wear cloth or surgical facemasks at all times inside the unit, only removing their mask to eat. We strongly encourage visitors to wear their own masks so that we can preserve our supplies for staff and clinical workers.
- **Peds:** Visitors will be limited to the same two people per patient for the entire stay (i.e. parent, guardian).
 - Visitors must wear cloth or surgical facemasks at all times inside the unit, only removing their masks to eat. We strongly encourage visitors to wear their own masks so that we can preserve our supplies for staff and clinical workers.
- **Swing Bed patients:** One patient visitor is permitted.

Providers deemed essential to a patient's care and wellbeing, and vendors necessary for patient care and/or hospital operations, may enter facilities in some circumstances. Those granted access must follow the same screening guidelines as all permitted visitors.

The following guidelines will apply:

- **Clergy and Pastoral Care**
 - Ongoing access to spiritual and pastoral care is considered an essential part of our patients' care. Local clergy and chaplains are permitted on-site to visit individuals from their religious communities and exercise our precautions.
 - Like all employees and visitors who enter FH facilities, local clergy will be screened upon entry. If screening temporarily restricts a member of the clergy from entry, they are encouraged to identify an alternate person who may provide the needed pastoral visitation.
- **Hospice and Home Care Providers**
 - Hospice and home care providers may be essential health care providers at long-term care settings where nursing and clinical staff are not providing

around-the-clock care, such as independent and assisted living and personal care.

- Hospice providers are additionally essential in skilled nursing facilities and hospitals when delivering direct patient care.
- Post-Acute Liaisons
 - Liaisons from non-FH post-acute facilities, (TCM Nurses) such as long-term acute care, acute rehabilitation, and skilled nursing facilities, are restricted from working on-site in FH facilities. During this time, post-acute liaisons should continue to work closely with FH case managers and/or social workers using virtual electronic and telephonic methods to ensure patients transition safely and efficiently to the next level of care.
 - Liaisons employed by FH facilities will continue to work with their direct leadership on any changes to their work processes or environment.
- Vendors/Dock Deliveries
 - Only vendors providing services deemed essential will be able to enter FH facilities via loading docks. Suppliers that are deemed essential and provided facility access via the loading dock will follow our facility entrance screening procedure, either at the dock or main facility entrance. Essential non-FH delivery personnel are encouraged to wear a FH-provided facemask while in the facility. All other vendors will stage their deliveries at the loading dock as instructed by each facility. A FH employee who has already been clinically screened for the day will then deliver internally.
- Other
 - Other essential on-site direct care and support providers may include:
 - Adult Protective Services (APS)
 - Children and Youth Services (CYS).
 - Emergency Medical Services (EMS).
 - Legal counsel, attorneys, when needed.
 - Other, as approved by local command center.
 - Police, when needed.
 - Specialty pharmacies and durable medical equipment (DME) providers, for discharges.