 Policy & Procedure	COVID Visitor Policy		
	Department Infection Prevention	Document Number	Page 1 of 2
Developed by (Committee or Department): Infection Prevention Committee			Effective Date 5/19/2021

***Note that this policy is subject to change without notice as the pandemic is ever changing**

PURPOSE

To provide the safest possible environment for patients and team members. The risk of COVID-19 introduction into healthcare facilities increases as community transmission becomes more widespread.

SCOPE

All patients, visitors, Fort Healthcare staff, and providers, including the following Rural Health Clinics: FHC Jefferson Clinic, FHC Center for Women’s Health Clinic, FHC Internal Medicine & Pediatrics Clinic, FHC Johnson Creek Clinic, FHC Integrated Family Care Clinic, FHC Whitewater Clinic.

DEFINITIONS

Caregiver: Parent, spouse, other family member or friends without formal healthcare training.

POLICY:

Limited visitors will be allowed on the hospital campus or in clinics until further notice. All visitors who meet the criteria listed below will be screened for COVID-19. Hospital Inpatient & OB visitors will be “designated” with arm band.

Allowed Visitor Includes:

- Pediatric caregivers (Clinic & Hospital) – two
- Certified doula – one
- End of life situations – assessed on a case-by-case- basis
- Outpatient Clinics- one support person as necessary
- Obstetrics/Laboring mother – two
- In-person discharge instructions – two
- Clergy – Assessed on a case by case basis
- Inpatient Services – two designated visitors per patient per hospitalization
- Emergency Department – one for all patients, two for pediatric patients or based on nursing discretion.
- Perioperative Services – Pediatric patients 2 adults in room. Adult patients may have 1 support person in the patient room at a time and one allowed in the waiting room for a max of 2 support people.


PROCEDURE

1. Limiting of Visitors:

- a. Limited entrances may be enforced to help slow the spread of COVID-19. At this time visitors will enter through the main hospital entrance on Armenia Street or the main entrance at any of the clinics. The Emergency Department entrance will be used for off hours with check in at the ED desk.
- b. Any visitors who are showing symptoms of acute respiratory illness and/or fever should be instructed to leave the facility.
- c. Encourage the use of other means to visit, telephone, Facetime, Zoom, Skype, etc.

2. Visitors During Community Transmission:

- a. Will be screened at the limited entrance points for symptoms of acute respiratory illness.
- b. During widespread community transmission only visitors essential for helping provide patient care and/or care for pediatric patients may be allowed.

 Policy & Procedure	COVID Visitor Policy		
	Department Infection Prevention	Document Number	Page 2 of 2
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- c. COVID-19 positive visitors who were not hospitalized can visit 10 days after symptoms have ended.
 - d. Any visitors who live in the same household as any COVID-19 positive person are not permitted to visit except in end of life situations.
3. When Visiting:
- a. Movement of visitors should be restricted to the patient room.
 - b. Visitors always need to wear protective face coverings.
 - c. Visitors should not be present during aerosol-generating procedures or during the collection of respiratory specimens.
 - d. Visitors on Inpatient Services and OB are required to wear a designated Visitor bracelet.
4. Visitors for COVID Positive Inpatients:
- a. Visitor needs to be asymptomatic.
 - b. Visit will take place through the window of the patient room.
 - c. Visitor always needs to wear a protective face covering.
 - d. Visitor is restricted to 2 people.
 - e. Visit time and length may be influenced by the medical needs of the patients on the unit; this is at the discretion of the nursing staff.
 - f. Education on risks and alternatives to window visits will be provided.
 - g. If family and/or friends choose to forego window visits every attempt will be made to make daily updates with families as requested, telephone or virtual options.
 - h. COVID positive OB laboring patients will be allowed one consistent support person, usually a member of the same household of the laboring women.
 - i. The support person will be allowed in the room and needs to stay in the patient room.
 - ii. The support person will be screened and if they are a member of the same household will be considered positive for COVID as well.
 - iii. If the support person is symptomatic, they are encouraged to stay home or leave shortly after the birth of the baby.
 - iv. If the laboring COVID positive mother has a c-section the support person will be allowed into the OR unless intubation is necessary, then support person will need to leave the room.

REFERENCES

CDC.gov/Coronavirus/2019-ncov

Original Policy Date: 10/21/2020			
Committee	Revised	Reviewed/No Change	Date
Infection Prevention	5.19.21		