



Title:	COVID-19 Temporary Visitation Policy		
Version:	8	Approved:	Brandon Bredimus (VP CNO)
		Date:	05/20/2021

Update effective 0500 on May 24th, 2021

In accordance with Texas Health and Human Services “Emergency Rule for Hospital Response to COVID-19”, Midland Memorial Hospital (MMH) has not allowed for open visitation since the beginning of the pandemic. Recognizing the important role family/friends have in improving patient outcomes, while also protecting the patients in our care, MMH has returned to a policy of allowing limited visitation. Based on the new guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), MMH shall limit visitors allowed in the facility to the extent the hospital determines such limitation is necessary to prevent or control a COVID-19-related health and safety risk. MMH will implement the following visitation rules based on confirmed positive COVID cases in house and continued community disease activity:

COVID Patients:

- Patients on our COVID designated units or with a confirmed COVID diagnosis will be allowed one fully vaccinated support person*. Fully vaccinated is both doses of a two-dose vaccine or 1 dose of a single dose vaccine. Proof of vaccination must be presented at the front desk with either the vaccine card or electronic record of vaccination. The support person will be allowed to visit for extended periods of time but will not be allowed to stay overnight. Unvaccinated individuals, including those who previously had COVID, will not be allowed in-person visitation unless there are significant extenuating circumstances, such as end of life. Approvals for exemptions should be directed to the Clinical Manager of the unit and must be accompanied by a written waiver.

Non-COVID Patients:

- Patients on our Critical Care Unit (ICU/CCU) will be allowed 1 identified support person* during the hours of 6am to 8pm.
 - All support persons must exit the building at 8pm. A support person who needs to stay overnight would be considered only on a case by case basis for extenuating circumstances.
 - Approvals for overnight stays and exemptions should be directed to the Clinical Manager of the unit.
- Patients on the Medical/Surgical units will be allowed 1 identified support person who may choose to stay overnight. Approvals for exemptions should be directed to the Clinical Manager of the unit.
- Patients in the ED will be allowed 1 support person for the duration of their stay in the ED. If the patient is admitted, they would fall under the inpatient visitation guidance of the unit they will be admitted to.
- Outpatient services will be allowed 1 support person for the duration of their stay. Endoscopy and Outpatient Testing Center have limited space in their waiting areas, but patients will be allowed 1 support person. Due to social distancing guidelines, we ask that individuals not needing assistance please not bring a support person unless it is necessary.
- Mothers on the Labor and Delivery unit will be allowed 1 support person and 1 additional coach/partner for no more than 2 persons at one time during the birthing process. Doulas would be considered a coach and would count towards the 2-person maximum. One support person will be allowed on the Mother Baby unit.

- Pediatric patients will be allowed 2 parents or guardians for no more than 2 persons at one time. 1 parent/guardian may stay with the patient at all times, including overnight.
- NICU limited visitation will follow the most current guidelines as determined by the unit.

Other Guidelines Related to Visitation:

- The only points of entry to the hospital for patients and support persons (visitors) will be the Emergency Department entrance and Main Entrance. The Main hospital entrance will be open from 5am to 5pm, Monday – Friday, for all outpatient services and visitors. The ED entrance will remain open 24/7 but should only be used for ED patients and visitors while the Main Entrance is open. No visitors or patients will be allowed to enter the building through badged employee entrances.
- The Craddick Medical Office Building entrance will be open for patients and visitors utilizing services in this building but will not be able to enter the hospital through this entrance and will need to proceed to the main or ED entrance for screening.
- Visitors to the hospital are asked to self-screen for symptoms prior to arrival. You should stay home if you are experiencing illness symptoms (fever, sore throat, cough, or shortness of breath) and will not be permitted to visit patients.
- Unvaccinated visitors coming to the hospital will need to have a face covering that goes over their nose and mouth. Visitors who cannot provide proof of vaccination will be required to wear a face covering at all times while in the building. Any visitor who cannot provide proof of vaccination and refuses and/or is unable to wear a face covering will not be permitted in the building or will be required to leave if already in the building.
- Visitors who are fully vaccinated and can provide proof of vaccination will no longer be required to wear a face covering while in the building. Visitors wishing to use this exemption will need to be banded at the front entrance of the hospital after validation of vaccinated status. Some visitors may still be asked to wear facemasks when visiting patients under isolation precautions or when directed by clinical staff.
- All visitors should perform frequent hand hygiene and restrict their visit to only the patient's room as much as possible.
- Visitors may leave the patient room to get food/refreshments as needed from the Market or Giftshop but should limit this as much as possible. Visitors may also leave the building as needed, but it is strongly encouraged to limit travel as much as possible to lower the risk of disease transmission.
- Congregating in waiting rooms or lobbies is not allowed. Gathering spaces and waiting rooms will remain closed to public use. Large gatherings of people outside of the building will also be discouraged.
- Visitors may be changed or substituted as desired, but no more than 1 visitor will be allowed at one time unless otherwise authorized.
- No children or person under 18 years of age will be permitted at any Midland Health facilities, unless they are here to receive medical treatment or have been emancipated as an adult and are here in a parental/spousal capacity. Extenuating circumstances can be discussed with the Clinical Manager of the unit.

***Support Person is a family member, friend, or other individual who is at the hospital to support the patient during the patient's stay.**

Exemptions may be revoked at any time and without notice based on current hospital conditions. Visitor restrictions will be evaluated frequently and updated accordingly.

References:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2021, May 13) Interim public health recommendations for fully vaccinated people. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2021, February 23) Interim infection prevention and control recommendations for healthcare personnel during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html>

Texas Health and Human Services Commission Health Facility Compliance Guidance Letter (GL-20-2021). “Hospital Visitor Screening & Access in Response to COVID-19”.
<https://hhs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/doing-business-with-hhs/provider-portal/facilities-regulation/memos/gl-20-2021.pdf>

Texas Health and Human Services Commission Health Facility Compliance Guidance Letter (GL-20-2015). “Emergency Rule for Hospital Response to COVID-19”.
<https://hhs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/doing-business-with-hhs/provider-portal/facilities-regulation/memos/gl-20-2015-a.pdf>

Revision number	Date	Description of Document or Document Change
8	05/20/2021	Updated unvaccinated mask coverage and CDC guidance in references.

