

Recovery Update

June 4, 2020- 5 p.m.



Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our Recovery Task Force continues to shape the plans and protocols for our gradual return to normal operations, driven by patient and employee safety and following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance.

In terms of our complete recovery, certain volumes of procedures and surgeries continue to trend up at many of our facilities. However, Emergency visits remain low, meaning community members may still be hesitant to visit us even with medical conditions of concern. Please share with people in your circle of influence, including community physicians, that we are taking extraordinary steps to ensure our facilities are safe, and they should not put off seeking care.

Today, I am pleased to share our plan for the first of three phases of the enhancement of our visitor policy, which had been temporarily modified to limit the amount of people inside our facilities in light of COVID-19. While the current restrictions were necessary at the height of the pandemic for everyone's health and safety; they limit the involvement of patients' loved ones who have not been able to be physically present to help comfort the patient and provide helpful information to our caregivers. We view patients' loved ones as part of the care team, and we know the difference they can make to the overall well-being of the patient.

Updated Visitor Guidelines

Phase 1 of our enhanced visitor policy will be **effective Monday, June 15-June 28**, as follows:

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Hospitals

Inpatient Units:

- One adult visitor (age 18 years or older) will be allowed at a time between **3 p.m. and 9 p.m.**
- Patients with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 will not be allowed visitors except under exceptional circumstances.
- Overnight stays will be evaluated as needed by unit leadership.

Elective Procedures, Emergency Department, and Labor & Delivery:

- One adult visitor may accompany patients for elective procedures.
- One adult visitor may accompany a patient in the Emergency Department.
- A partner or spouse may stay continuously with a patient in Labor & Delivery and Maternity and one adult visitor will be allowed during visiting hours.
- Beyond these examples, visitor permission may be granted by the patient care team on a case-by-case basis.

Outpatient Facilities

- One adult visitor may accompany patients for elective procedures, physician office visits and appointments.
- One parent or caregiver may accompany pediatric patients.
- Miami Cancer Institute and Lynn Cancer Institute will follow their internal visitor guidelines.

Specific Management of Visitors

- All visitors will be screened. Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms including fever, cough or shortness of breath will not be allowed to enter our facilities as a visitor.



Baptist Health South Florida

Healthcare that Cares

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- We will be providing a mask for all visitors; visitors are required to wear this Baptist Health-issued face mask at all times at our facilities.
- All visitors are required to adhere to social distancing guidelines. The visitor is not required to social distance from the patient they came with.
- Waiting rooms and other common areas will be monitored for adherence to social distancing.
- Visitors will not be allowed in the room during aerosol producing procedures.
- In facilities that have waiting rooms that may not be able to adhere to social distancing, leadership will determine how to operationalize guidelines.

We appreciate the support of our employees, patients and families during this time and we look forward to safely welcoming visitors back to our facilities soon.

About COVID-19 and Masks

Two simple yet very important things that we can do to protect each other from COVID-19 are to stay at least six feet apart and wear a mask. Evidence shows that face masks are an essential component of limiting the spread of this virus. For everyone's safety, it's important for all of us to wear a mask, and to remind our friends and family to do the same. By all of us doing our part to prevent the spread of infection, we are contributing to the faster social and economic recovery we need. It also may help prevent our facilities from seeing more potentially avoidable admissions of patients with COVID-19.

I am proud of the ongoing commitment of our entire team as we work together to find solutions to challenges and support each other.

Thank you.