

# **ELECTRA HOSPITAL DISTRICT ELECTRA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL**

## **HOSPITAL ENTRY AND VISITATION DURING PANDEMIC POLICY**

### **PURPOSE**

To protect the health and safety of patients, employees, and the public.

### **POLICY**

Visitation will be from 7 am – 9 pm. Visitation to isolation patients will be from 1 pm – 5 pm. Unvaccinated workforce members will perform self-screening prior to entry using criteria consistent with local, state, and federal guidelines. Electra Memorial Hospital will screen visitors prior to entry using criteria consistent with local, state and federal guidelines as indicated by community transmission rates<sup>1</sup> or at the discretion of the Guest Services Specialist (patient spontaneous reporting of symptoms or observation of illness). Vaccinated employees will self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19. All visitors and employees will wear masks inside the Hospital.

Screening criteria will include but not be limited to:

- A positive viral test for SARS-CoV-2
- Symptoms of COVID-19
- Close contact with someone with SARS-CoV-2 infection or a higher-risk exposure (for healthcare personnel)

### **PROCEDURE**

Patient visitors will be limited as follows:

- Non-isolation Inpatients
  - Limited to two visitors at any given time.
  - Family members of a patient when end of life is imminent (as determined by provider).

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<sup>1</sup> [CDC COVID Data Tracker](#)

- No visitors under the age of 13.
- Visitors will sign in and check out with the front door attendant upon exit.
- Isolation Inpatients
  - If the patient is a minor, they will be allowed to have one parent or guardian with them.
  - Limited to two visitors per day, one visitor at a time for a maximum of 2 hours each.
  - Family members of a patient when end of life is imminent (as determined by provider).
  - No visitors under the age of 18.
  - Visitors will sign in and check out with the front door attendant upon exit.
  - Visitors are required to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) in the patient rooms at all times.
  - *Once a visitor leaves the patient's room, he or she must exit the hospital immediately and cannot return that day.*
- Outpatients
  - Infusion and wound care patients will be allowed to have one caregiver or visitor accompany them during treatment if space allows.
- Emergency Department
  - Two parents of a minor child who is a patient.
  - All other presenting to the ED will be allowed one visitor.
  - No visitors under the age of 18 unless approved by the ER Charge Nurse.
- Clinics
  - Clinic patients will be allowed to have two visitors accompany them during their visit if space allows.
- Visitors must pass screening (when required), wear masks at all times and may be required to wear personal protective equipment that meets Hospital infection control requirements.

- A patient’s attending physician may prohibit in-person visitation if they determine that such visitation may lead to the transmission of an infectious agent that poses a community health risk.
  - This determination must be renewed every five days.
  - The Hospital will provide a written or oral update of the patient’s condition to the visitor if not prohibited by HIPAA.
  - The Hospital will notify the person who receives the daily update of the estimated date and time of patient discharge.

If visitors need to temporarily wait in the lobby, social distancing guidelines must be respected. Visitors may be asked to vacate the ER and/or waiting room at any time if needed.

## REFERENCES

[CDC Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Pandemic. Updated February 2, 2022.](#)

[CDC COVID Data Tracker](#)

25 Tex. Admin. Code § 133.51 (2020).

Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 241, Section 241.012