

	SUBJECT	SCOPE/DISTRIBUTION
	<b>Visitor Restriction Guidelines Related to COVID-19</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ECH <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EMSO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EASC; <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ECHEC <input type="checkbox"/> Department:

**PURPOSE:** For the safety of our patients and staff, Evangelical Community Hospital has adopted the following visitor restrictions.

**POLICY:** Effective March 8, 2021, for the safety of our patients, staff and community, Evangelical Community Hospital has adopted the following visitor restrictions:

**Inpatients** (*Non-COVID Only*)

- One dedicated, on-site support person may visit the patient. No switching out of support persons.
- When necessary, screening staff will call the patient’s unit to confirm the one dedicated, on-site support person.
- After the dedicated support person is confirmed, staff will populate the support person’s name under “contact password” in the patient’s record.
- Support person will be given a “visitor band.”
  - Visitor band must be presented to screening staff upon entry into the Hospital.
  - Screening staff will call the patient’s unit if they present without a “visitor band.”
- Support person must remain in the patient’s room and remained masked their entire visit.
- Visiting hours are from 1-8 pm.

**Pediatric Inpatients**

- Up to two designated parents/guardians for the duration of the Hospital stay.
- Parent/guardian must remain in the patient’s room as much as possible.

**The Family Place** (*Laboring Mother*)

- One designated support person for the duration of the Hospital stay.
- Laboring mother’s doula is permitted. Doula will not take the place of the patient’s one designated visitor.
- The one dedicated support person will be issued a “visitor” wristband that must be displayed to staff each time they enter the facility until the baby band is received.

**End-of-Life/Medically Unstable Situations**

*Non-COVID Patient*

- Two visitors at a time in a patient’s room for a non-COVID patient.
- Exceptions to the two-visitor maximum should be directed to the Nursing Supervisor for approval.
- If more than two visitors wish to see the patient, the other visitors must wait outside in their vehicle or designated area (i.e. Main Entrance Lobby, Donehower-Eisenhauer Lobby).

- Visitors must remain in the patient's room unless asked to step outside by a staff member.
- With further review, visitors under 18 may be considered for end-of-life situations.

#### *COVID Patient (Positive or Person Under Investigation)*

- Charge nurse must approve based on census and availability of a staff member to assist with PPE.
- Two visitors at a time in the patient's room.
- If more than two visitors wish to see the patient, the other visitors must wait outside in their vehicle or designated area (i.e. Main Entrance Lobby).
- Exceptions to the two-visitor maximum should be directed to the Nursing Supervisor for approval.
- Visitors must remain in the patient's room unless asked to step outside by a staff member.
- With further review, visitors under 18 may be considered for end-of-life situations.
- Visitors will be required to wear the following PPE to enter the patient's room- N95, gown, gloves, and eye protection

#### **Emergency Department (ED)**

- One designated support person may be allowed to be with patient when the patient is assigned to an ED patient room.
- Support person must remain in the patient's room.
- No support persons for patients who are suspected or confirmed as having COVID-19.
- No support persons for patients presenting through the Decontamination Room until cleared from airborne precautions.
- Potential support persons will remain in their vehicles until patient is cleared of COVID-19 precautions.
- For patients under the age of 18: Two designated support persons for the patient's entire stay.
- Exceptions to the Emergency Department visitor restrictions may be made for patients who are nearing the end of life. ED charge nurse will collaborate with Nursing Supervisor for approval.
- If patient is admitted to the Hospital, staff will provide the one, dedicated on-site support person with a "visitor band." The name of the support person will be forwarded to the Main Entrance Screening Team to enter into patient's record.

#### **Main Hospital Outpatient Surgeries/Procedures** *(includes One Day Surgery and Cardiovascular Cath Lab)*

- One designated healthy support person over the age of 18 may accompany the patient.
  - The designated support person will be provided a wrist band at the Main Entrance Desk.
- Support person may be asked to wait in their vehicle or designated area, such as the Main Entrance or former Main Lobby if physical distancing cannot be achieved in waiting or care areas.

#### **Outpatient Surgeries/Procedures** *(includes Ambulatory Surgical Center, Endoscopy Center)*

- One designated healthy support person over the age of 18 may accompany patient to registration/waiting area.

- Support person may be asked to remain outside the facility and will be permitted inside for use of the restroom. Support person may be able to use the waiting area if physical distancing can be achieved.
- The designated support person will be called when the patient's procedure is complete to receive discharge instructions and may be permitted into the discharge area.

### **Outpatient Imaging, Testing, Physical Therapy**

- One healthy support person over the age of 18 may accompany the patient.
- Support person may be asked to wait in their vehicle or designated area, such as the Main Entrance or Donehower-Eisenhauer Lobby, if physical distancing cannot be achieved.
- The individual departments charged with overseeing their respective waiting areas will communicate the need to hold further support people in the lobby areas.

### **Outpatient Physician & Clinic Office Appointments (includes Urgent Care)**

- No support person is permitted to accompany the appointment, with the following exceptions:
  - One healthy caregiver for an adult with difficulty ambulating, intellectual, developmental or cognitive disability, communication barrier, or behavior concerns.
  - One healthy parent/guardian for a patient under the age of 18.
  - Adult patient arriving for their clinical appointment accompanied by a minor(s) who has no ability to arrange care. Adult patient should make every effort to contact to the office prior to arrival to provide notification.
  - One healthy caregiver for an adult for the following appointment types: pregnancy confirmation, prenatal care appointments, fetal demise, poor prognosis (i.e. cancer), end of life care planning, and surgical confirmation.

**Departments must alert Health Screening Representatives if physical distancing cannot be achieved in Department specific waiting areas.**

### **Clergy**

Clergy are viewed as a member of the patient care team and are not subject to visitation limitations with exception to the criteria listed under **General Visitor Guidelines**. Clergy will be limited to visiting the requesting patient only and are not permitted to round on other patients.

### **Nursing Home Liaisons**

In-person visits may be approved on a case by case basis.

### **Vendors**

Representatives should have only previous approved appointments upon entering the building and should be directed to the Symplr badge printer for a daily badge.

## **General Visitor Guidelines**

Approved visitors will be screened upon entrance into any Evangelical facility, provided a dated screening sticker, and required to wear a mask during their entire visit. Temperature screenings will no longer be performed.

Visitors must be screened daily.

Visitors are required to wear a Level 1 or cloth mask.

Gaiters are acceptable.

The following are not permitted: Bandanas, masks with valves/vents, loose cloth masks or any mask not completely covering the nose and mouth.

Masks must cover mouth and nose at all times.

Visitors with symptoms of respiratory illness—such as a fever, cough, or shortness of breath—will not be permitted inside the facility.

Visitors must be 18 years of age or older, unless otherwise noted in the policy.

Approved visitors may be asked for proof of identification.

No visitors will be permitted for inpatients or outpatients who are diagnosed with or suspected of having COVID-19 (unless otherwise noted in this policy).

Visitors must be at least 10 days from the onset of illness if they previously had COVID-19.

If a visitor is unable to wear a mask, they will not be permitted inside the facility.

Exceptions: end-of-life situation

A face shield will be provided to the visitor to wear for medical reasons only during the end-of-life visit.

Evangelical Community Hospital cannot deny access to an attendant, caregiver or family member of a patient who has an intellectual, developmental or cognitive disability, communication barrier, or behavioral concerns.

*We encourage family/support persons to connect with your loved one virtually using technology such as FaceTime, Skype or Zoom.*

*Visitors may send greeting cards to patients by visiting the Hospital website. [www.evanhospital.com](http://www.evanhospital.com)*

*The Hospital's Dining Room and Gift Shop remain closed to the general public.*

**For internal use only:**

**Extenuating circumstances for visitors must be approved by the following protocol:**

- Staff will call Nursing Supervisor to discuss the circumstance.
- Nursing Supervisor will confirm with the following persons and then inform desk staff of next steps.
  - Patient Unit
  - Administrator-on-Call
- Screening staff will note this communication on the communication tablet located on the screening desk.

**PROCEDURES:** N/A

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** Patient Experience will have overall responsibility for the implementation of this policy.

**DEFINITIONS:** Not Applicable

<b>DEVELOPED BY:</b>	Nichole Weber, Director of Patient Experience	<b>DATE:</b>	06/29/2020
<b>APPROVED BY:</b>	Dr. John Devine, Vice President of Medical Affairs	<b>DATE:</b>	06/29/2020
<b>APPROVED BY:</b>		<b>DATE:</b>	
<b>APPROVED BY:</b>		<b>DATE:</b>	
<b>REVISION(S) DATE(S):</b>	7.13.20, 9.9.20, 10.2.20, 11.11.20, 11.18.20, 12.18.20, 12.26.20, 1.7.21, 2.12.21, 3.3.21		
<b>Related Policies:</b> Infection Control Guideline 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)			
<b>Related Forms/Protocols/Order Sets:</b> Not Applicable			
<b>References:</b>			