

Bartlett Regional Hospital

Bartlett Regional Hospital provides its community with quality, patient-centered care in a sustainable manner

BRH Visitor Directive

Effective 1/21/2022

Purpose: To keep Bartlett Regional Hospital's environment as safe as possible for patients and staff while providing safe, effective, and patient centered care.

Visitor Age Restrictions: *The current directive is for all visitors age 16 or older. Visitors under this age would need an exception by the unit director or house supervisor on duty.*

General Inpatients (Med/Surg, MHU, WMU, CCU, OB)

Non Isolation Patients:

Each patient will be allowed two (2) designated visitors during their course of stay. These visitors would be expected to be a spouse, caregiver or family that resides with the patient in their home or a close contact with the patient. (The patient's close contact "bubble").

Isolation Patients:

Staff should follow isolation guidelines for patient's diagnosis to determine the appropriateness for visitors. Isolation is not the determining factor to restrict visitors, staff will evaluate each patient situation at the unit level and include an assessment that considers the risk to visitors vs. the needs of the patient and the benefit that visitation from loved ones provides. If determined that visitation is appropriate, each patient will be allowed two (2) designated visitors during their course of their stay. These visitors would be expected to be a spouse, caregiver or family that resides with the patient in their home or a close contact with the patient (patient's close contact "bubble"). (See non isolation patient section. Visitors for isolation patients must be age 18 or over to visit during the patient's infectious period.

Comfort Care/End of Life Patients

Multiple visitors may be allowed in room based on room size and staffing concerns and will be determined by the nursing staff at the time of visitation. Visitation time blocks may be considered and unit visitation hours may be extended. The unit will create a visitation plan based on patient needs with the consultation of case management and house supervisors. This plan will be kept on the patient's chart and shared with family.

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OB Department

Visitors will include one primary support person (significant other/spouse) and may include one additional support person. This person may should be a close family member or part of the patient's "bubble". The visitors must wear masks when in the OB department including when staff are in the patient's rooms. There is no switching out of support persons during the stay through discharge.

Outpatient Services

A patient who requires assistance during a scheduled appointment may have one (1) visitor with them who has been screened. This person will follow any directions given by the staff of the unit and may at times be requested to wait in a designated area for patient privacy or safety. Patients who need assistance with discharge or care instructions may have a support visitor at the time of care.

** Bartlett Regional Hospital reserves the right to limit visitors on a unit, based on the patient's condition or other care needs of the unit.

Visitor Screening and Expectations

It is recommended that all visitors to BRH would be fully vaccinated. (Two weeks after last dose of vaccine)

Visitors will adhere to masking at all times within BRH. It would include all time spent within the patient room and other care areas.

All visitors will remain in the patient room or designated treatment or waiting area and adhere immediately to any request made by BRH staff.

Visitors will follow all screening procedures in place at the designated visitor entry points of the hospital each time they enter the facility. This screening follows the current CDC guidelines regarding symptom screening. If a person fails the screening process, they will not be a designated visitor, unless the House Supervisor in collaboration with the Unit Director makes an exception.

It is recommended that any person who has traveled outside of Juneau within the last 7 days completes a test to rule out any possible Covid-19 infection prior to visiting patients at BRH.

The cafeteria will be open to any **in-patient** visitor during normal business hours. They will need to show their green armband establishing them as a screened visitor and social distancing will be required at all times while in the Café.

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1. Exclusions that are not limited by this policy: The legally authorized representative of a protected/high risk patient.
2. Law Enforcement
3. Minor Children requiring multiple caregivers that may extend out from immediate family
4. Dementia or dementia type diagnosis may need special considerations.
5. Clergy at the request of the patient or family.

Variations or Exclusions of Visitor Policy

Any alterations to the visitor policy may be approved by the house supervisor on duty in collaboration with unit director. The administrator on call will be consulted when uncertainty or conflict with the care team exists regarding variations of the policy. Exclusions will be documented and kept in the unit caring for the patient and should be kept on the patient's chart.

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