



**Visitor Restriction Guidance for Jackson Hospital & Clinic  
Inpatient, Outpatient, Clinic and Ambulatory Sites  
UPDATED June 6, 2022**

Per the “Safer at Home” proclamation issued by Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey, *visitors* remain restricted in hospitals. Exceptions for caregivers and continued restrictions for the hospital, clinics, and Outpatient services are set forth below.

**As we move forward from the critical stages of the COVID pandemic, Jackson Hospital & Clinic has updated visitor restrictions. Allowances will continue to be taken into consideration where the presence of a caregiver would improve the patient’s safety, emotional well-being, physical care, or end of life experiences.**

**Masking is required for all employees, Medical Staff and Visitors while in the hospital and all Jackson Hospital buildings on or off campus. Compliance with guidelines below is required at all times.**

**DEFINITIONS:**

**Caregivers** are defined as “the primary contact; parents, spouses, other family members or friends determined to improve the patient’s safety, emotional being, or physical care” and designated by the patient.

**Visitors** are defined as individuals not deemed as caregivers or Clergy.

**Clergy:** Jackson Hospital ensures patients have adequate and lawful access to chaplains or clergy in conformance with the Religious Freedom Restoration Act and Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act. Clergy are allowed a 15-minute visitation with a caregiver and patient upon request and approval based on patient’s COVID status. Clergy must follow caregiver entrance guidelines. One clergy visit per day will not be included in the number of visitors per patient each day.

**COVID-19+:** Individuals who are positive for the coronavirus.

**PUI:** Persons under investigation. PUI patients are being tested for the coronavirus and/or were in an environment that has been determined to be at high risk for the transmission of the coronavirus, which includes but is not limited to nursing home residents, forensic patients, group

home residents, homeless, and/or patients exhibiting signs and symptoms of the coronavirus infection (fever, respiratory distress, and cough).

## **CAREGIVERS / VISITORS FOR COVID-19+ / PUI / NON-COVID PATIENTS**

### **COVID -19+ & PUI Inpatients**

- COVID-19 positive or PUI patients will not be allowed to have Caregivers / Visitors / Clergy present at the bedside except in end-of-life situations or other extenuating circumstances (approval by the House Supervisor / Director of the Unit / CNO).
- Caregivers / Clergy / Visitors must be able to wear PPE provided by the hospital without restrictions.

### **Non-COVID Inpatients (Non-Critical Care)**

- Caregivers must be competent in his/her ability to improve the care of the patient and is able to be independent for all ADLs.
- Two caregivers are permitted inside the facility at a time for each patient. At 9pm, any caregiver currently in the hospital will either need to exit the hospital or should plan to remain overnight.
- Caregivers will not be allowed to enter after 9pm without permission from the unit Director or in the absence of the Director, the House Supervisor.

## **CAREGIVER / VISITOR ENTRANCE GUIDELINES:**

- Caregivers will be allowed entrance to the hospital at 8am each morning.
  - Exceptions are made for caregivers arriving with patients scheduled for early morning surgeries and/or procedures.
  - Women's Services' caregiver access will be granted access outside of normal visitation hours and must be verified by the staff of that department.
- All caregivers must comply with entrance screening guidelines. Jackson Hospital may refuse access to anyone for noncompliance of infection control and screening practices.
- Caregivers must be wearing their own face covering upon arrival to the facility and are required to wear the mask at all times.
  - The face covering must cover the nose and mouth of the caregiver and should not slide down when the individual speaks.
  - The hospital reserves the right to require the caregiver to wear a facemask provided by the hospital if a care provider determines the facemask to be ineffective in protecting the patient and/or the staff of Jackson Hospital. Individuals who are unable to wear a mask or refuse to comply with the facemask requirement will not be allowed to visit due to the increased risk of disease transmission.

- Caregivers must submit a picture ID at the screening location. After verification, the caregiver will be provided a visitor identification badge and it will be placed in a visible area on the caregiver's clothing.
- Entry will be denied to anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or have been in close contact with a person who has tested positive for the coronavirus virus.
- Caregivers must perform hand hygiene upon arrival and frequently while in the hospital. Hand hygiene is required before and after any contact with the patient or items / furniture within the patient's room. Caregivers may not wear gloves into the hospital.

### **CRITICAL CARE / CVICU**

- Two caregivers / visitors will be allowed to visit during designated visiting times for 30 minutes.
- All caregivers will need to exit the unit and hospital at the end of the visitation time.
  - The caregiver / visitor will be allowed to enter the hospital 15 minutes prior to the set visitation time and will wait in the designated waiting room.
  - All caregiver requirements to enter the facility must be met prior to arriving to the designated waiting location.
  - Patients who are COVID-19+ or PUI will not be allowed "in room" visitation by a caregiver / visitor or clergy. The caregiver will be allowed to stand outside of the patient's room and view the patient. If the patient is able to communicate via phone, the patient and caregiver will be allowed to communicate in that manner.

### **WOMEN'S SERVICES:**

- Each patient will be allowed three Caregiver/Support persons to accompany them throughout their stay.
- Caregiver/Support person guidance:
  - The Caregiver/Support person will be screened on admission to the hospital. If the Caregiver/Support person does not pass screening, they will not be allowed to enter the facility.
  - The Caregiver/Support person will be required to wear a mask at all times.
  - The Caregiver/Support persons (designated by the patient) will not be allowed to rotate with others during the patient's stay, as we continue to recognize the importance of reducing unnecessary exposure.
  - COVID-19 positive or Symptomatic PUI patients will not be allowed to have any visitors, including Caregiver/Support person.
- Sibling Visitation:
  - Siblings of the newborn will be allowed to visit in the mother's room on Post-Partum Day 1 between the hours of 2pm and 5pm.
  - Children 2 years of age and under will not be required to wear a mask.

- Children greater than 2 years of age will be required to comply with hospital guidelines for masking.
- Siblings will not be allowed to visit in the nursery / NICU.

THE PATIENT CANNOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY OTHER SIBLINGS / CHILDREN. ALL CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 18 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT OTHER THAN THE PATIENT.

**NEONATAL / NURSERY SERVICES:**

- Each neonatal admission will be allowed visitation by mother and one Caregiver/Support person.
- Neonatal Caregiver/Support person guidance:
  - Mother/Support person will be screened prior to admission to the NICU / Nursery. Anyone with signs and symptoms of an infection will not be allowed to enter the unit.
  - Mother/Support person will be required to wear a mask at all times while visiting.

**PEDIATRIC PATIENTS:**

- Pediatric patients will be allowed three Caregiver / Support persons will be allowed to visit with patient.
- Two parents or caregivers will be allowed to stay overnight with the patient.
  - COVID-19 positive or Symptomatic PUI patients will not be allowed to have any visitors, including Caregiver/Support person.
- Sibling Visitation:
  - Siblings of the patient will be allowed to visit in the patient's room between 2pm and 5pm daily.
  - Children 2 years of age and under will not be required to wear a mask.
  - Children greater than 2 years of age will be required to comply with hospital guidelines for masking.

The hospital reserves the right to restrict visitation of persons less than 18 years of age for pediatric patients in isolation. THE CAREGIVER OF THE PATIENT CANNOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY OTHER SIBLINGS / CHILDREN. ALL CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 18 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT OTHER THAN THE PATIENT'S CAREGIVER.

### **END OF LIFE GUIDANCE FOR CAREGIVERS:**

- COVID+ patients or PUI patients will only be allowed caregiver visitation upon approval by a collaborative discussion between the physicians and nurses caring for the patient. Visitation will only be allowed for patients who are cognizant and will benefit from the caregiver's visit.
- For non-COVID-19 patients in whom death is anticipated within 24-48 hours, two Caregivers (meeting the caregiver entrance guidelines) will be allowed at the bedside.
  - Caregivers may rotate with other caregivers once every four hours until 9pm. At 9pm, any caregiver currently in the hospital will need to remain overnight.

### **SURGICAL / PROCEDURAL AREAS:**

- During a Pre-Admit Testing Visit (PAT), no visitors/caregivers will be allowed to accompany the patient unless needed to complete or assist with the accuracy of information required.
- Two Caregivers, 18 years of age or older (meeting the caregiver entrance guideline) may accompany the patient to assist with entry into the hospital and registration on the day of surgery or procedure.
  - The Caregiver will be permitted to utilize existing waiting rooms for initial check-in observing social distancing requirements. The caregivers will be allowed to stay with the patient until the transport team arrives.
  - Caregivers will return to the waiting room once the patient has been taken to the procedural area (Holding room or procedural suite) to prepare the patient for the procedure. The caregiver must provide a contact number for communication between the care team and the caregiver.
  - Surgical outpatient and other indicated procedures may require a caregiver or responsible person to be immediately available during the surgical procedure and be readily available at the time the patient is ready for discharge to home.
  - If the patient is staying overnight, the inpatient area will notify the caregivers once the patient has arrived in the room. ALL requirements for inpatient caregiver guidelines will go into effect at that time.

### **EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT:**

- One Caregiver will be permitted to remain at bedside with a patient if:
  1. The patient is NOT COVID-19 + or Person under Investigation (PUI).
  2. The patient is NOT in a hallway stretcher OR fast-track.
  3. The patient is NOT being evaluated for a psychiatric condition.
    - An exception may be made for pediatric patients.
  4. The patient is NOT a forensic patient.

5. Visitors exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms will not be permitted.

The Emergency Department has the authority to restrict caregiver visitation if allowing caregivers may be detrimental to patients, staff, or other caregivers due to risk of exposure or harm.

**JACKSON HOSPITAL AMBULATORY CLINICS:**

- One Caregiver/Support person will be allowed to accompany the patient IF the waiting area has the space to accommodate social distancing.
- All Caregivers and patients must wear a mask.
- Symptomatic screening to include temperature check will be conducted at specified entrances.
- Proper social distancing at 6 feet is always maintained while within the facility. Seating and elevator restrictions will be marked by signage to ensure adequate distancing.