

## **Ascension Wisconsin Temporary Visitor Guidelines**

### **Ascension Wisconsin Acute Care Facilities**

Welcome! As part of a comprehensive response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have enacted the following visitor policy effective Tuesday, October 27, 2020, until further notice for Ascension Wisconsin hospitals. Our guidance addresses your safety and the safety of our associates, physicians and community, while ensuring that we continue to deliver compassionate, personalized care. Our priority is to reduce virus transmission and to protect people who are at higher risk for adverse health complications due to COVID-19.

#### **We appreciate your compliance with the following temporary visitor guidelines:**

- **In-person visitation has been temporarily suspended.** You are encouraged to stay connected with your loved one using virtual visitation (Ex. FaceTime, Skype, Zoom, etc.).
  - These can be downloaded in either the App Store (iPhone) or the Play Store (Android). Both patient and visitor will need to download the same application. Access to guest wi-fi at Ascension Wisconsin facilities is available by connecting to AH-Guest.
  - If you need support in the virtual visitation process, please ask your nurse or patient care technician.
- Exceptions to our visitation policy may be made by hospital leadership balancing the health risks and the patient's right to receive visitors. Examples of predefined exceptions include:
  - Two designated parents/guardians for pediatric and neonatal intensive care (NICU) patients
  - One designated person for non-decisional patients
  - One designated person to receive in-person discharge instructions
  - One designated person for patients with disabilities, including dementia, who may assist with care and decision-making
  - One visitor for patients undergoing surgery: limited to the pre-operative period until time of surgery
  - One designated parent/caregiver for emergency department pediatric patients younger than 18 years of age
  - One designated person and a rape crisis advocate for patients being seen due to sexual assault or domestic violence
  - Up to three support people for non-COVID-19-positive patient end-of-life situations
  - One support person for end-of-life situations for COVID-19-positive patients and patients suspected of having COVID-19. To reduce the risk of exposure, in-room visitation may not occur after certain respiratory therapies, such as aerosol-generating procedures, until safe care and visit standards are met.
  - *PLEASE NOTE:* The designated visitor(s) must be the same person(s) throughout the hospital stay.
  - Women giving birth:
    1. Labor support person -- The labor support person is the approved visitor
      - a. Ascension Wisconsin recognizes and supports the role of the labor support person throughout the pandemic.
      - b. This person may or may not be someone with whom the woman lives.
      - c. We recommend supporting the choice of the woman as to who this support person will be.
      - d. If the woman is COVID-positive, we recommend the support person use a medical face mask and be offered a face shield, gown and gloves.
    2. Doulas - Doulas are in addition to the labor support person/approved visitor

- a. Ascension Wisconsin recognizes and supports the role of doulas throughout the pandemic.
  - b. A doula is a medical professional who will abide by all processes and procedures at the hospital.
  - c. The doula must be certified.
3. Adoptive parents
- a. Ascension Wisconsin recognizes the important role that early bonding plays in new adoptive relationships. This is best served by having physical presence in the hospital near the birth mother and baby.
  - b. We recommend continuing this practice with the adoptive parents, abiding by the same policies that we have in place for patients.
  - c. If the adoptive parents have signs or symptoms of COVID-19 (or a recent positive test, even if asymptomatic), they should not come to the hospital.
  - d. If the birth mother is COVID-19-positive, we recommend the adoptive parents use the same precautions we give to the labor support person.

**The following applies to any visitor(s) permitted per the above exceptions:**

- No visitors under the age of 18 will be allowed.
- Visitors entering for the above exceptions will be required to wear a mask upon entry and for the duration of the visit.
- Visitors will be screened at entry into the facility for symptoms of COVID-19.
- If COVID-19-related symptoms are present, you will not be allowed to enter our facility.
- Screening questions may be updated based on CDC guidance.

**If there is a situation that is not listed above, it will be evaluated by the local site leadership and decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis.**

We appreciate your support in adhering to these guidelines, as we continue to care for people who are most in need during these unprecedented times.