

# Patient Visitation Guidance

## During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Our guiding principle is to minimize potentially infectious exposure for Veterans, staff, and visitors while simultaneously respecting the therapeutic nature of visitation for our hospitalized Veterans.

### Definitions:

- **Mask** – a regular surgical mask.
- **Mask with eye shield** – a regular surgical mask with attached eye shield.
- **Aerosol-producing procedure** – any procedure which is likely to produce aerosolized respiratory particles, to include intubation, bronchoscopy, nasopharyngeal swab, nebulizations, CPAP, BiPAP, and open circuit oral suctioning.
- **Special droplet contact** – mask + eye protection + gown + gloves
- **Airborne Infection Isolation Room (AIIR)** – negative pressure patient-care room used to isolate persons with a suspected or confirmed airborne infectious disease
- **PUI (Suspected COVID-19)** – the lab test has been ordered and is pending (COVID-19 PUI)
- **Confirmed COVID-19** – the lab test has been ordered and returned positive

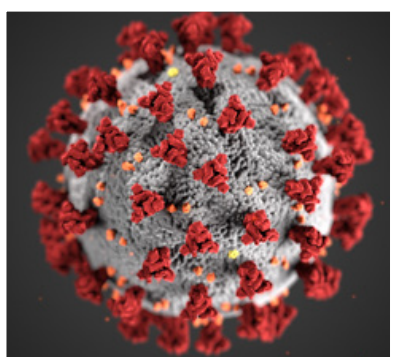
### Visitor Restrictions:

- Patients will receive no visitors. Exceptions will be made on a case-by-case-basis and will follow the below guidance:
- Patients may have one visitor to accompany them on the day of discharge.
- Patients on hospice or comfort care may receive one visitor at a time.
- Patients in the Emergency Department or any outpatient clinic may have one visitor accompany them.
- No visitors under the age of 13 will be allowed.
- No visitors with fever, cough, shortness of breath, congestion, runny nose, sore throat, travel to areas with widespread sustained transmission in the last 14 days, or exposure to a confirmed case within the last 14 days will be allowed in the facility.

### Allowed visitors will adhere to the following guidance:

- Visitors should be instructed on entry to the facility to go straight to the patient's room and after leaving the patient's room, return straight to their vehicle. Visitors should perform hand hygiene upon exiting the facility and should shower upon return home.
- If patient is a PUI or confirmed COVID-19 patient and is allowed a visitor (i.e. meet exceptions as listed above), visitor must wear mask, gown, and gloves when in the patient room and patient must wear mask. If patient is unable to wear a mask, visitor must also have eye protection (mask with eye shield).
- Visitation will not be allowed if the patient has received an aerosol-producing procedure recently (either within 45 min if patient is in an AIIR or 1 hour 45 min if patient is in a standard hospital room).

***This policy is consistent with policies at area hospitals.***



**Stop the Spread  
of COVID-19!**



**Durham VA  
Health Care  
System**