VISITOR POLICY (effective 09/01/2021)

Under state law, patients may have 1 healthy visitor (18 years or older) at a time, except in emergency departments.

For everyone’s safety and to prevent the spread of COVID-19, we strongly discourage visitors. We encourage only vaccinated visitors enter the hospital or physician offices. All visitors are required to wear a mask for the entirety of their visit and are subject to Houston Methodist’s screening policy.

Emergency department
No visitors are allowed in the emergency department waiting room. Visitors will be notified once the emergency patient is in a treatment room and it is deemed safe for the patient to have a visitor.

Hospitalized patients, procedures, treatments, doctor appointments and vaccine clinics
Generally, each patient is allowed 1 healthy visitor in the facility at a time. For example:

- Hospitalized patients are allowed 1 healthy overnight visitor (18 years or older).
- Labor and delivery patients are allowed 1 healthy visitor at a time (18 years or older). One healthy visitor (18 years or older) may stay overnight. For the Neonatal ICU, both parents will be allowed to visit.
- On the day of surgery, 1 healthy visitor at a time is allowed to stay in the waiting room during surgery, then accompany the patient back to the unit.

COVID-19 or other infectious hospitalized patients
Visitors are not allowed if the patient's attending physician deems it unsafe. Otherwise, 1 healthy visitor (18 years or older) will be allowed and will be required to wear the necessary safety equipment at all times.

Exceptions
- Special consideration will be made for disabled patients who may need more than 1 visitor to provide support and knowledge about their care.
- Visitor policies will vary for long-term acute care hospitals (LTACHs).
- If you feel an exception is needed, please speak to management.
- Any physician may make an exception to this rule for compassionate reasons, based on the patient's medical condition.
- Patient's clergy may visit without being “counted” against the patient's visitor limit.
- Visitor hours may be determined by each unit.

MASKS ARE REQUIRED IN ALL HOUSTON METHODIST FACILITIES.