EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISITATION GUIDELINES

GENERAL VISITATION GUIDANCE:

- Visitors will be screened before being permitted to enter hospital premises
- Visitors must wear a mask or face/nose covering before entering the hospital and for the entire duration of their visit until they exit (cloth masks are acceptable)
- Visitors must provide their own mask
- Visitors must not congregate in waiting room areas and have to maintain social distancing.
- Visitors should stay in the patient’s room for the duration of the visit and not roam around the hospital.
- Visitors should wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds or apply hand sanitizer upon entry and departure from patient rooms and the facility.

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

- ED patients may have one (1) adult accompany them into the facility
- Pediatric patients may be accompanied by two (2) caregivers (parents or guardians only)
- Visitors may be asked to wait in their vehicles or outside the ED if the waiting room capacity is exceeded to maintain the appropriate social distancing requirements
- Visitation will be determined by the patient disposition as follows:

  A. If the determination is made to treat and release the patient from the ED, the visitor will be notified to return to the ED and may remain with the patient at bedside to participate in discharge instructions until the patient exits the ED.

  B. If the determination is made to admit the patient, the visitor may be asked to leave once the PSO has been entered. At this point, inpatient visitation rules apply:

    1 visitor per patient per day from 12N-6pm
    No switching of visitors
    Visitors must remain in the patient’s room

- It is the responsibility of the ED staff to keep families/visitors informed and notified when patients are moved from the waiting room to a bed or to the nursing unit.
- Conditions may change without notice in the ER (for example, heavy surge of patients, etc.), this policy may change and visitation may be further restricted.
- Exceptions to the above visitation rules include patients with special needs who may require the presence of an essential caregiver for the entire duration of the ED visit. Other exceptions will be managed at the discretion of the ED Director, CMC or Charge Nurse on a case by case basis.