VISITOR POLICY DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Due to the evolving situation with COVID-19, the visitor policy is modified at all facilities as follows, effective 12:01 a.m. on February 11, 2022.

Visitors are allowed into the hospitals or clinics under the following circumstances:

- Pursuant to State Public Health Officer Order dated February 7, 2022 and CDPH AFL 21-31 dated August 12, 2021, except as otherwise noted in this policy, all visitors to the General Acute Care Hospitals must show daily upon arrival for each individual visit either: (1) proof that they are fully vaccinated (two weeks or more after receipt of the second dose in a two-dose vaccine or single dose in a single-dose vaccine); or (2) documentation of a negative COVID-19 test that was collected within 2 days (if using PCR testing) or within 1 day (if using antigen testing) prior to visit and for which results are available at the time of entry into the facility. For visitors who visit for multiple consecutive days, proof of negative test is only required every third day (meaning testing results must be shown on day one, day 4, day 7, etc.). Visitors with a history of COVID-19 within the prior 90 days of visit may provide documentation of recovery from COVID-19 and release from isolation in lieu of testing.

- Hospital visitor screening staff will verify and document vaccination status or negative COVID-19 test for all visitors, subject to the additional requirements noted below.

- Proof of vaccination or negative COVID-19 testing is NOT required in ambulatory or outpatient settings that are not located in the hospital. Refer to the Subacute policy for visitation at the subacute facility.

- Visitors may use either PCR testing or antigen testing. Any PCR or antigen test must either have Emergency Use Authorization by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration or be operating per the Laboratory Developed Test requirements by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Over-the-counter home antigen tests will not be accepted unless they are observed and resulted in front of trained hospital staff.

- Visitors shall not walk around the hallways of the facilities and must go directly to and from the patient’s room.

- All approved visitors should remain in the patient’s room during visitation and limit their movement throughout the facility as much as possible.

- In rooms with multiple patients, 6-foot distancing shall be maintained among visitors who are not in the same household and facility personnel if more than one patient has a visitor at the same time.

- Visitors who are not from the same household are expected to maintain 6 feet distancing between individuals and groups and facility personnel while in the facilities where possible, including in the waiting rooms.
• Persons who are providing advocacy, spiritual services, or legal assistance to patients may be permitted to visit upon request of the patient and at the discretion of the care team, in addition to the visitors permitted by this policy, as long as such persons comply with all vaccination/testing documentation requirement, masking, screening, and social distancing requirements.

• All visitors shall be required to wear a surgical mask (or cloth mask for mass vaccination and testing sites) or they may wear a higher-level mask or respirator, such as an N95, KF94, or KN95 at all times while in the facility, including while in the patient’s room, in accordance with current Universal Guidelines for Masking Patients, Visitors, and Staff. Visitors are encouraged to bring their own masks that are in compliance with this policy, but if not, a surgical mask will be provided upon arrival.

• If a visitor reports to the care team that they are fully vaccinated, the visitor may have physical contact (e.g., hugging, holding hands) with a fully vaccinated patient while alone in the patient’s room (no other patients, visitors, or health care personnel are present). Staff may check with the screening station to confirm if visitor has provided documentation to show that visitor is fully vaccinated.

• In addition to proof of vaccination or negative COVID-19 test as outlined above, all visitors will be screened before entering the facilities each day and will not be allowed in the facility (regardless if they provide proof of vaccination or testing) if they have a temperature of 100°F or above, are showing any COVID-19 symptoms, or indicate that they feel sick. Visitors who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the prior 10 days or who had close contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 within the prior 10 days may not visit, although exceptions may be made after Day 5 of isolation or quarantine on a case-by-case basis for visitors who can show a negative COVID-19 PCR or antigen test collected within the prior 24 hours. The patient may identify an alternative visitor who meets all requirements. Please refer to Screening for Patients and Visitors Prior to Entry into Hospitals/Clinics guidelines and Universal Guidelines for Masking Patients, Visitors, Staff.

• All visitors will receive a visitor badge identifying that the visitor has been screened and the date of screening. The visitor badge will be checked by staff upon initial entry and any subsequent entry into the facility to ensure that all visitors have been screened appropriately and that all visiting is in accordance with the requirements of this policy, including that the individuals confirm they are the identified visitors for the day or otherwise eligible to visit.

• Visiting of COVID-19 positive adult patients is generally not allowed. Exceptions may be permitted at the discretion of the care team for urgent patient care needs as long as all requirements of vaccination/testing documentation, of the Visitors Section of the current Guidelines for the Use of Personal Protective Equipment While Caring for Patients in Hospitals and Clinics During COVID-19 Pandemic (“PPE Policy”) are followed including, but not limited to, PPE requirements and counseling about exposure risks. Visiting for COVID-19 positive pediatric patients is permitted subject to requirements of the PPE Policy.

• Visiting Hours are subject to change and are at the discretion of the facility. Current visiting hours for allowed visitors are as follows:
  o 11 am to 8 pm for general visitation
  o 8 am to 8 pm for rehabilitation unit
Pediatric patients

Up to two parents or guardians for pediatric patients, including PICU, NICU, and the Burn Center at any time, for the duration of the patient’s stay or surgery. Visitors accompanying pediatric patients to the Emergency Department or upon direct admission from an outpatient clinic visit will not be required to have proof of full vaccination or negative COVID-19 test to enter the facility with the pediatric patient. However, if pediatric patient is admitted, subsequent visits will require proof of full vaccination or negative COVID-19 test per this policy as soon as reasonably possible, but no longer than 72 hours later. Antigen testing may be available on the unit or through the Emergency Department pursuant to the patient testing policy.

Adult patients

1. **Ambulatory procedures in acute care settings:** One visitor to accompany an adult patient to and from surgery. The visitor will be allowed to stay with the adult patient until the patient is taken into surgery/procedure per standard protocol. Once the adult patient goes into surgery/procedure the visitor will be asked to leave the hospital. Visitors may not use waiting rooms or wait in the hospital while the patient is in surgery or procedure. The visitor will be contacted to return to pick up the patient when the patient is ready for discharge. If a visitor is accompanying a patient who has a physical, intellectual, cognitive, or developmental disability or impairment, and the visitor is unable to provide documentation of full vaccination or negative COVID-19 test, the visitor may still assist the patient upon arrival and discharge (assuming all other requirements of the policy are met), however, the visitor must leave the facility while the patient is in surgery.

2. **Rehabilitation Unit:** One visitor per day during the hours of 8:00 am to 8:00 pm, or as otherwise needed for caregiver training at the discretion of the care team. If no caregiver training is scheduled, visitation is at the discretion of the patient’s physician and clinical care team in consultation with the unit nurse manager as needed for patient care.

3. **Patients at End-of-Life:** Nursing supervisor and/or charge nurse may coordinate up to 2 visitors (family members, or other individuals designated by the family, e.g. spiritual), for any patient expected to be within less than 12 hours of end of life. Visitors do not need to be from the same household as long as physical distancing can be accomplished. Visitors may visit the patient in this circumstance even if the visitors are unable to provide documentation of full vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test, if all other requirements of this policy are met.

4. **All adult units:** Patients in the adult units may have one visitor per day who may visit the patient at any time during Visiting Hours for the entire day. The visitor must be the same person for the entire day, but the same or different person may visit during Visiting Hours on a different day. Exceptions can be made during general visiting hours by the patient’s clinical team as needed for patient care and emergent situations.

5. **Patients with Physical, Intellectual, Developmental Disabilities or Cognitive Impairments:** One visitor may accompany patient for outpatient services if the patient needs assistance or support. If the visitor is unable to provide documentation of full vaccination or negative COVID-19 test, the visitor may still assist the patient (assuming other requirements of the policy are met), however, if the patient is admitted, subsequent visits will require proof of vaccination or negative COVID-19 test.

6. **Labor and Delivery:** One birth partner or support person for patients in the Labor and Delivery Unit for the duration of the stay and on the postpartum floor. If the birth partner or support person is unable to provide documentation of full vaccination or negative COVID-19 test, the partner or support person may still
come in (assuming other requirements of the policy are met). As soon as reasonably possible, the partner or support person must comply with the vaccine verification or testing requirement. Antigen testing may be available on the unit or through the Emergency Department pursuant to the patient testing policy. In addition to the birth partner, a doula may be permitted to be present if prior arrangements have been made with the care team and the doula complies with PPE and infection prevention control guidelines and show proof of full vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test. Visiting on postpartum floor is subject to the same requirements as other adult units identified in section 4.

7. Outpatient Clinics or Services and Procedures (including Emergency Department, Ambulatory Clinics, and Outpatient Services in the Hospitals): One visitor may accompany patient to an outpatient appointment or visit if space permits for social distancing. For outpatient services in the acute hospital setting, if a visitor is accompanying a pediatric patient or a patient who has a physical, intellectual, cognitive, or developmental disability or impairment, and the visitor is unable to provide documentation of full vaccination or negative COVID-19 test, the visitor may still enter the facility and assist the patient while the patient is receiving the outpatient services, if all other requirements of this policy are met. In the ambulatory clinics, proof of vaccination or negative COVID-19 test is not required.

Vendor representatives: With the approval of the Director of Materials Management or designee, or the Director or Deputy Director of Facilities, or designee, the minimum necessary vendor representatives needed to support operating room and surgical procedures, to respond to critical bid projects, for construction, maintenance, repair, moves, and extraordinary biomedical equipment support, and to implement contractual requirements such as in-service training, equipment maintenance and installation that are urgent and cannot be accomplished using phone or video conferencing. All vendors visitors entering the acute care hospital or subacute facility must show proof each day that they are fully vaccinated, or have a negative COVID-19 test as required by this policy, and satisfy all other requirements of this policy. If a vendor is needed in the acute care hospital to address a critical urgent patient care need and the vendor does not have proof of full vaccination or negative COVID-19 test, the vendor may enter the facility with approval of an executive leader to perform the critical function, but must leave the facility when the urgent situation is resolved and any subsequent visits to the facility will require proof of full vaccination or negative COVID-19 test per this policy.

COVID-19 Mass Vaccination and Testing Sites, Locations, and Areas: At the discretion of site staff, children and adults are allowed to accompany persons receiving a COVID-19 vaccine or test at any of the community mass vaccination or testing sites, areas, or locations. Virtual visitation through Facetime and similar options is encouraged and may be facilitated for patients on a case-by-case basis. With the limitation of visitors, it is expected that the patient’s attending physician, surgeon, or designee will continue to contact the patient’s designated family member or surrogate decisionmaker daily, and upon completion of surgery, with updates on the patient’s care.

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