



IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL PATIENTS AND VISITORS:

VMH Healthcare COVID-19 Modified Visitation Policy Effective Monday, January 11, 2021

Vernon Memorial Healthcare continues to evolve our COVID-19 precautions to ensure a safe place to work and receive care. We are updating our guidelines for visitors, limiting our visitation policy related to our hospitals, clinics, emergency departments, and assisted livings.

Prohibited visitation

- Visitors experiencing or having experienced any COVID-19 symptoms within the last 2 days are not permitted—even if the visitor is the primary support person and/or healthcare decision maker. Connectivity will be made via telephone to support patient and provide decisions.
 - Visitors who have had a diagnosis of COVID-19 in the last 10 days or who have been told to quarantine OR who have had known exposure within 14 days are not permitted.
 - Patients with the following symptoms may not have a visitor:
 - Fever or chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Muscle/body aches
 - New loss of sense of taste or smell
- Exceptions:
- Patients <18 years of age
 - Patients giving birth
 - Patients at end of life (as determined by VMH)
 - Patients clinically unable to participate in their care

Expectations for all permitted visitors

- Must pass entrance screening (exception: COVID+ adult accompanying a minor if no alternative support person available/appropriate)
- Visitors are always required to cover their nose and mouth with a face covering. **This is without exception.** Visitors who cannot tolerate a personal face covering will not be allowed to visit.
- Visitors must respect social distancing (maintain six feet of separation between themselves and others) even when wearing a face covering.
- Visitors should visit in the patient's room and plan to remain in the patient's room for the duration of the visit.

Exceptions:

 - If there is an aerosolizing procedure or visitors are directed out of the room by staff, at that time the visitor would be directed to an internal waiting space.
 - Visitors may also leave the patient's room to access the cafeteria.
- Frequent hand hygiene should be performed by all visitors. Hand hygiene may include washing hands with soap and water or using an alcohol-based hand rub.

Please see the tables on the following pages for additional information respective to our different VMH facilities.

If you have questions, contact your VMH clinic, VMH hospital, or assisted living facility.

ALL AREAS		
Reason	Support Persons Allowed	Location
Department of Corrections/Jail patient	Number of security/law enforcement officers accompanying a patient is based on state regulations and these individuals will be allowed to enter	All areas
Government employee presenting on official business	Government officials can carry out professional duties; although many have shifted to a virtual model, presenting officials should not be barred from entry	All areas

CLINICS		
Reason	Support Persons Allowed	Location
Clinic: Adult and Pediatric Patients	1 Support Person over 16 years of age <i>For pediatric patients:</i> No siblings unless both children have appointments within 2 hours of each other.	Hirsch Clinic, Bland Clinic, Kickapoo Valley Medical Clinic, La Farge Medical Clinic
Clinic: Pediatric children in foster care and visits involving Child Protective Services	2 Support Persons over 16 years of age	Hirsch Clinic, Bland Clinic, Kickapoo Valley Medical Clinic, La Farge Medical Clinic
Evaluation for COVID-19 (i.e., fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, muscle/body aches, new loss of sense of taste or smell)	No support person, unless patient is under 18 years of age or needs physical assistance with transfers/activities of daily living	Respiratory Clinic Space

ASSISTED LIVING		
Reason	Support Persons Allowed	Location
Relocation activities, such as packing or providing support to residents experiencing signs and symptoms of relocation stress syndrome (Determined by VMH)	Up to 1 Support Person over 16 years of age	Old Times and/or Fair Haven
Moving furniture	Up to 2 Support Persons over 16 years of age	Old Times and/or Fair Haven

HOSPITAL		
Reason	Support Persons Allowed	Location
Emergency Services	1 Support Person over 16 years of age	Emergency Department

Outpatient surgery, inpatient surgery, and/or other procedures occurring in the operating suites	1 Support Person over 16 years of age May visit pre- and post-operatively in the ambulatory surgery area. During surgery, please make plans to leave the building.	Surgery
Hospitalized Adult Patients	1 Support Person over 18 years old for the duration of the hospital stay	Inpatient
Hospitalized Peds (17 and under) Patients	2 Support Persons over 18 years old for the duration of the hospital stay	Inpatient
COVID+ Hospitalized Adult (18+)	No Support Persons, <u>except</u> COVID + Obstetric patients may have 1 Support Person for the duration of the hospital stay	Inpatient
COVID+ Hospitalized Peds (17 and under)	1 Support Person over 18 years old for the duration of the hospital stay	Inpatient
Hospital End of Life (Determined by VMH)	Up to 3 Support Persons at one time, and up to 6 persons for the duration of the hospital stay. Support persons should be 16 years of age or older.	Inpatient
COVID + Hospital End of Life (Determined by VMH)	1 Support Person for the Special Precautions Unit every 24 hours. Support persons should be 18 years of age or older.	Inpatient
Hospital-based outpatient appointments	1 Support Person over 16 years of age	Departments such as Imaging, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, Cardiac Rehab, Infusion, etc.

This situation is evolving daily, and we appreciate your patience and support as we work through these complex decisions. Ultimately, all restrictions that are being put in place are for the safety of you, our patients, and the communities we serve.

Please use communication methods available to you (e.g., phones, FaceTime, Skype, etc.) to keep in contact with patients whenever possible.

Stay updated on VMH COVID-19 preparedness updates by visiting www.vmh.org or following us on Facebook.