

## **Visitor Policy for Outpatient Services & BHS Physician Practices – Effective June 10, 2020**

Berkshire Health Systems has announced changes to visitation policies for Physician Practices and Outpatient Services following new guidance from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to further lower the risk of transmission of infectious disease, including the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

New Visitation Procedures for Outpatient and BFS Practices :

- We continue to encourage telemedicine where appropriate.
- All patients may have one companion for outpatient visits.
- All patients and companions must be masked at all times.
- All companions and patients must be screened for symptoms of illness (fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, loss of sense taste or smell) and those who are symptomatic cannot be permitted to enter.
- All approved companions should perform hand hygiene on entry to the facility and before entering and after leaving exam room.
- Patients and companions must always maintain 6-foot social distance from others.
- Companions under the age of 18 are discouraged and will be dealt with on a case by case basis.
- Parents (guardian) of pediatric patients allowed.

The changes are temporary and visitation policies will be updated when the situation improves.