

While we are maintaining a safe environment within all our health care settings, we are restricting visitation at all **Berkshire Health Systems facilities** starting on **12/15/2020** to help staff focus on providing the best care for our patients in a peaceful environment that promotes healing. These guidelines are for Berkshire Medical Center and its Hillcrest and North Adams Campuses, Fairview Hospital and BHS Physician Practices.

- **Medical/ Surgical, Critical Care, Progressive Care, Behavioral Health, Rehab, Family Birth Center and Pediatrics:** No visitation
- **Emergency Department and Urgent Care:** No visitors in the department, including the lobby
- **End-of-Life Circumstances:** Based on individual circumstances.
- **Ambulatory surgery/Endoscopy/Crane Center/Imaging/Cancer Center:** A companion can drop off patient, leave the building and return to pick up patient and receive discharge instructions if needed.
- **BHS Physician Practices:** One companion/caregiver may accompany the patient to his or her appointment.
- No visitation for patients suspected of or testing positive for COVID-19.

Although visitation is restricted at this time, there are certain exceptions for *designated support persons* such as:

- 1 Birth partner
- 1 Parent of a child 18 or under at a time
- 1 Designated support person for patients with intellectual, cognitive, or physical disabilities.
- 1 attorney/1 Clergy
- End of life companion in approved circumstances.

All *designated support persons* will be required to:

- Only enter through the main entrance or ED
 - To be screened for COVID-19 symptoms and exposure
 - Sign in, show ID and be given a visitor badge.
 - Always wear a mask
 - Patient needs to wear a mask during visit
 - Must go directly to the patient's room
 - Perform hand hygiene before entering and leaving the patient's room
 - Remain in the patient's room during their entire visit
 - Always maintain a 6-foot distance from patient if possible
 - Do not eat or drink in the patient's room
- We understand the importance of staying connected to loved ones. To facilitate this, we encourage electronic visits using tablets or phones to assure contact between patients and loved ones. Patient Experience and Nursing can help set up an electronic visit using our equipment or the patient's own device.
 - We thank you for understanding that we must limit our visitation at this time.