

## Visitor, Masking, Temp and Screening Policy Updates Effective Saturday, July 10, 2021

### Dear Employees and Providers:

We continue to closely follow COVID-19 activity across our state and are proactively reviewing all of our response efforts. Thank you for your ongoing participation in the fight against this virus. We have the following updates to share with you:

### Visitor Policy –

As the state loosens mask requirements and businesses resume operations, we are pleased to announce changes to our visitor policy as we recognize that visitors contribute to the healing and wellbeing of our patients. **We will no longer require the same visitors for the duration of a patient's stay. While only two visitors will be allowed at one time, visitors may swap out throughout the day.** **Children under 18 are not allowed into the hospital unless they are seeking treatment or having test or procedures.**

- Inpatient units:
  - **two (2) visitors** allowed at one time per patient between 6 am – 8 pm
  - **one (1) visitor** will be allowed to stay overnight
- Emergency Department:
  - **one (1) visitor** allowed while patient is in room. Visitor may remain in waiting room as long as social distancing is maintained.
- Labor/Delivery/Mother/Baby:
  - **two (2) visitors** allowed at one time + midwife or doula or birthing/Lamaze coach during labor
- PEDs
  - **two (2) visitors** allowed at one time per patient between 6 am – 8 pm
  - **two (2) visitors** will be allowed to stay overnight.
- ICU patients:
  - **two (2) visitors** allowed during ICU visiting hours only; 6 am – 8 pm
  - Waiting in waiting room allowed for emergent purposes if social distancing allows.
- COVID-19 patients:
  - **one (1) visitor** allowed between 6 am – 8 pm These visitors must remain in the patient's room at all times, wearing appropriate PPE.
- Clinics/Urgent Care/Lab/Diagnostics/All Outpatient Areas:
  - **one (1) visitor** allowed

**\*\*\*All variances must be cleared by Administrative Officer or Infection Control.\*\*\***

### **Masking in Patient Care Areas Strictly Enforced**

Please note that, for the safety of everyone at our hospital and clinics, **masking** should be **strictly enforced** for all employees, providers, patients and guests in **the hospital and clinics** – regardless of vaccination status. **Masks should be worn over nose and chin.** Visitors unwilling to comply with our masking policy will be asked to leave, no exceptions. This is being done in alignment with the requirements set forth by the Louisiana Department of Health. All vaccinated employees' badges must show the "COVID-19 Vaccinated" sticker which can be obtained through Employee Health.

### **Symptom screening will need to resume July 10 per OSHA guidelines. Temperature No Longer Required in Healthcare Settings**

**Beginning July 10, we will reinitiate symptom screening for patients and visitors.** Based on updated guidance from the State of Louisiana and OSHA, we are no longer required to temperature check employees, patients and visitors upon arrival at our hospitals. **We will screen patients and not allow sick patients entrance into facility unless they are seeking treatment.** Masks and hand sanitizer will be available at all entrances and we will still have employees stationed there to check in visitors and ensure visitation limits are being followed.

### **Delivery and Vendors, Contract and Students Update**

Vendors, contract employees and students must follow the same masking guidelines as all of our employees and visitors and **should not be allowed in the building without a mask.**

#### **Employees:**

- **Employees should self-monitor their health daily and not come to work with symptoms of COVID. If experiencing symptoms, contact employee health at 898-6242 or 380-7676 for further guidance and testing.**
- **Reminder to change your facemask daily and do not reuse PPE.**

### **Scheduling COVID-19 Vaccine Appointments**

Louisiana is ranked in the bottom five states in the U.S. for vaccination rates and Vermillion parish is last in Region 4 for vaccination rate and your help is needed. **Vaccination remains paramount to the health of our patients and colleagues.** Abbeville General is administering vaccines regularly, call extension 6285 or 6242 to schedule a vaccine for yourself, family, friends or patients.