In response to the significant decrease in COVID-19 hospitalizations and case counts, we remain at a **LOW risk level** for COVID. Going forward updates and guidance will be driven from COVID Risk Levels and Operations Policy and Procedure in the infection control binder.

CDC released “The COVID-19 pandemic has now shifted to a new phase, due to the widespread uptake of highly effective COVID-19 vaccines, the availability of effective therapeutics, and the increase of high rates of vaccine- and infection-induced immunity at the population level in the United States. Each of these measures has contributed to lower risk of severe disease and death across the United States.”

# COVID Community LOW Risk Level: New changes go into effect 6/20/22

# Screening Patients:

# We will no longer have “screeners” but instead these employees will be greeters.

# Greeter stations at ER entrance and front entrance will be open 6:00am – 4:00pm Monday – Friday.

# We will ask if visitors are feeling well today. If anyone presenting to visit is ill, we will ask they leave and return to visit when they are better.

# We will no longer place armbands on visitors.

# Visitation will return to normal Pre COVID visitation hours.

# If a visitor is sick they will be asked to leave the hospital and may return when no longer ill.

* Visitation is subject to change based on Low, Medium, and High COVID risk levels in the hospital and community.
* Visitor P&P can be located on the M drive under hospital wide policy manuals.
* Manual: Environment of Care > Safety Management Chapter > Visitor policy page 76
* **Visitation of COVID positive patients:**
* Two visitors at a time per patient allowed between 6:00 – 8:00pm.
* For COVID positive patients in the ICU, two visitors will be allowed during ICU visiting hours only.
* Visitors must remain in the patient’s room at all times wearing appropriate PPE which will be provided to them.
* Exceptions will be made for end of life. Administrative Officer or Infection Control should be notified for approval.

# Masking is optional for asymptomatic patients and visitors. Anyone wishing to wear a mask is encouraged to do so. Symptomatic patients must still wear a mask.

# Some patients may not feel comfortable in unmasked situations.

# If a patient asks an employee to wear their mask, we will wear a mask in the patient’s presence.

# Look for visual cues of your patient’s comfort. If they are wearing a mask, it is a good indicator that they feel safer masked. Having staff also mask for the encounter shows empathy for the patient and will build trust.

# Masking is optional for VACCINATED employees.

# Each employee is encouraged to mask based on personal risk and preference and we respect the decisions you make for your own health and well-being.

# Unvaccinated employees will continue to mask at all times.

# Masking is required for staff:

# In the infusion center

# When caring for immunocompromised patients in any patient care area.

# When caring for a COVID symptomatic patient.

# Employees will continue to self-monitor for illness. Sick employees are to remain home and contact employee health and their supervisor.

# Delivery and Vendors, Contract and Students

# Vendors, contract employees and students must follow the same masking guidelines as our employees.

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