



NESHOBA COUNTY GENERAL HOSPITAL
POLICY and PROCEDURE MANUAL

Title: Visitation during COVID-19 pandemic

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Purpose: Neshoba County General Hospital – Nursing Home (NCGH) is committed to keeping our patients, staff, and visitors safe as we respond to the spread of coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

Policy:

- Visitation is limited for all patients, with further clarification for specific Units listed below. Children under the age of 12 are not permitted to visit at this time.
 - A Unit may specify a designated visitor, which is defined as a visitor/caregiver who first visits the patient that day and may not change throughout the day unless deemed necessary by a member of the care team. A designated visitor may change the next day.
- Visitation is not permitted for adults admitted under isolation, including COVID 19 suspected or confirmed, except under approved circumstances or an end-of-life situation.
- Efforts are made to grant requests from a patient or family member for visits from a chaplain, Eucharistic minister, community clergy, or other spiritual advisor.
- Other exceptions are evaluated on a case-by-case basis by a member of management.

Unit-specific Visitation Restrictions:

- **Nursing Home** – Visitation is permitted at the Neshoba County Nursing Home following the most up to date guidelines from the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Please contact 601-663-1377 for the current guidelines for visitation as they are subject to changing frequently.
- **Emergency Department (includes waiting room)** – Adult patients being treated in the Emergency Department are allowed one (1) designated visitor. Pediatric patients (less than 18 years of age) are permitted to be accompanied by two (2) adult parents, guardians, or caregivers.
- **Hospital Inpatient Units** – Patients admitted to the Hospital and Senior Life GPU are permitted two (2) visitors at a time during the specified visitation hours.
 - If more than 2 visitors wish to visit on an inpatient unit, only 2 at a time may be allowed inside the building. Others must wait outside the building and be screened for entry after the previous visitors have exited the building.
 - Visitors on the inpatient unit who stay overnight should present to the screening station at the front entrance for daily rescreening and to receive a newly dated visitor screening sticker.
- **Outpatient areas and clinics (Includes waiting rooms)** – Adult patients in outpatient areas and clinics are not permitted visitors except for patients that have a behavioral or medical condition where a caregiver is essential to their care.
- **Outpatient Surgery** – Adult patients undergoing outpatient surgery may have one (1) designated visitor (the patient’s designated driver) before and after surgery.
- **Infusion Center** – Due to the immunocompromised nature of patients receiving infusion services and social distancing limitation, one support person is allowed under the following circumstances only: Patients with disruptive behavior, behavioral health, altered mental status, end of life, developmental delays, or safety concerns in which a family member is key to their care or necessary to provide a history.

Visitation Processes:

- **Screening** – All visitors are screened at the designated facility location. Visitors meeting any of the following criteria are not permitted to visit. Any visitors staying overnight must present to the facility screening station daily for rescreening and to receive a newly dated visitor screening sticker. The visitor screening sticker should be worn throughout the visitor’s stay.

- Temperature of 99.6 degrees F or higher.
- Upper respiratory symptoms including any of the following: cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, chills, body aches, and/or new loss of taste or smell.
- Positive COVID-19 test in the last 14 days, are currently waiting on results of COVID-19 test or are isolating because you may have been exposed to a person with COVID-19.
- Under home isolation orders per MSDH.

Infection Prevention Practices:

- **Masks** – Visitors are required to wear masks. Please bring your own mask with you when you visit one of our facilities. If you do not have a mask, one will be provided. Visitors that do not adhere to wearing a mask will be asked to leave the premises of NCGH to protect the safety of our staff, patients, and other visitors.
 - Visitors who are fully vaccinated (2 weeks after 2nd dose of Moderna/Pfizer or 2 weeks after single dose of Janssen) may remove their mask while inside a single patient room for visitation if the patient and the visitor agree. If a staff member enters the room, the visitor should reapply their mask.
- **Restriction of movement** – Visitors must remain in the room of the patient they have been permitted to visit. Visitors may leave the room only to get a meal.
- **Hand hygiene** – Frequent handwashing is required to protect our patients, staff, and visitors from the spread of germs and viruses.
- **Social Distancing** – While in the building, visitors must practice social distancing of at least 6 feet between individuals. Please do not remove barriers on waiting room seating.

Visiting hours:

- Hospital: 6:00 am – 6:30 pm
- Senior Life GPU: 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm