



Swedish COVID-19 Visitor Policy Effective Thursday, November 19, 2020

Swedish remains committed to the safety of our patients, caregivers and the community at large. In response to the recent surge in COVID-19 infections throughout the Puget Sound, Swedish is taking extra precautions in safeguarding patients and caregivers from risk of infection by restricting our regular visitor policy until further notice.

Routine Visitations

Visitors and patient escorts are not permitted in Swedish hospitals, clinics, emergency departments or any campus offices until our medical professionals deem in-person visits safe.

Our patients' and caregivers' safety is our top priority. We understand and sympathize with your desire to support your friends and loved ones. However, the best support you can give at this time is to safeguard their health and healing by limiting physical contact. We encourage you to support patients virtually until in-person visits are safe.

Visitation Exceptions for Obstetrics and Pediatrics

All patients, parents, guardians and patient support persons must:

- Be screened for COVID-19 symptoms and be asymptomatic according to the Swedish screening policy (below) in order to accompany a patient in the facility.
- Be at least 18 years old.
 - A parent of a baby or child may be present regardless of age. In urgent situations if a patient has minor children accompanying them with no other option for care at the time, the minor(s) may accompany the patient until other arrangements are made.
- Adhere to universal masking, hand hygiene, physical distancing and screening protocols.
- Enter Swedish facility through Entry Control Points.
- Be free of any COVID-19 symptom(s) within the last 24 hours, and must declare to have been free of exposure to someone COVID-19 positive in the last 14 days.
- Wear an isolation mask and follow physical distancing protocols while in the care facility.
 - Wearing personal masks is permitted; however, N95s with a valve, scarves, bandanas and neck gaiters are restricted. Anyone wearing restricted masks will be asked to remove it and replace it with a provided medical mask. Medical masks will be provided if personal masks are unavailable. For visitors unable to wear a face mask, face shields will be provided and are required to be worn in place of a mask.

Official language interpreters may be present if needed by the patient. All parents, guardians and support persons must remain in the patient rooms at all times. If there are essential activities to be attended to, at the discretion of the medical unit, the support person may leave and return.

Food and drink may be brought inside the facility and into the patient rooms. Room service will also be available at all campuses except Cherry Hill.

- Food deliveries may not be delivered to the front desk (direct handoff only, no delivery drop zones will be available).
- Food may not be stored in unit nutrition rooms.
- Campus cafeterias have limited access and are not open to the public.
- Campus Starbucks cafes are available for grab-and-go service only. Visitors must return to patient room.
- Congregating is not permitted.
- Although discouraged, visitors may eat in patient rooms if they are staying for longer periods of time.
 - If visitors are eating in the room, they must stop and mask whenever a caregiver enters the room and be physically distanced from the patient.

- Visitors should wear a mask at all other times and practice hand hygiene before and after eating.

Exceptions will be made for patients, guardians and support individuals of the following:

Pediatric patients

- All inpatients 18 years or younger may have two people, a parent or guardian, present. Parents and guardians of NICU patients must receive and wear a wristband.

Labor and Delivery patients (Non-COVID)

- Laboring patients may be accompanied by two support persons, who may be a doula, interpreter, friend or family member. Multiple people will not be able to rotate.
- Only one support person plus a doula or interpreter will be allowed in the operating room for a C-Section and in pre-op and post-op.
- Doulas may leave the labor room and return for essential activities if necessary.

Labor and Delivery patients (COVID-19 positive or person under investigation for COVID)

- Laboring patients may have one support person present during labor and delivery.
- No support persons will be allowed in the C-Section room.
- One support person is allowed in pre-op and post-op.

Postpartum patients

- Only a designated support person with the second adult wristband will be allowed to stay with the patient.

Antepartum patients

- Patients may have one support person stay at any time. Only one person may be selected as the designated support person for the entire hospital stay.

Women and Children Outpatient / Testing Patients

- Pregnant patients with an urgent or emergent pregnancy related appointment, including ultrasound needs, are permitted one support person to accompany them, regardless of location or inpatient / outpatient status. All other routine OB visits no longer allow in-person support.
- Approved support persons must be 18 years old or older, unless the chosen support person is the other parent of the child, in that case there are no age restrictions.
- No other minors are allowed, unless the situation is emergent and there is no other option for the minors who have accompanied the patient. Essential patient supporters / escorts needed for escort assistance for mobility or interpretation, until interpreter can be assigned for medical advice. Escorts will need to leave premises immediately after delivering patient to destination. No other patient supporter is permitted at this time and will need to wait in their car.
- Pediatric patients less than 2 months old may have two people present: an advocate, parent or guardian.
- Pediatrics more than 2 months old may have one person present: an advocate, parent or guardian.

Visitation Exceptions for Swedish Clinics, Laboratories, Breast Imaging and Radiology

- Swedish Cancer Institute patients may have one patient supporter to escort and stay with them during the appointment.
- Approved support person must be 18 years or older, unless the chosen support person is the other parent of the child, in that case there are no age restrictions. No other minors are allowed, unless the situation is emergent and there is no other option for the minors who have accompanied the patient. Support person must be screened for COVID-19 symptoms and be asymptomatic in order to accompany the patient.
- Essential patient supporters / escorts needed for escort assistance for mobility, interpretation (until interpreter can be assigned for medical advice). Escorts will need to leave premises immediately after delivering patient to destination. No other patient supporter is permitted at this time and will need to wait in their car.
- Pediatrics less than 2 months old may have two people present: an advocate, parent or guardian.
- Pediatrics more than 2 months old may have one person present: an advocate, parent or guardian.
- Patient supporters must be screened and be free of any COVID-19 symptom(s) within the last 24 hours.
- Patient supporters must wear an isolation mask, practice hand hygiene and follow physical distancing while in the care facility.

Visitors who meet the exception criteria must also:

- Go directly to and from the patient's location. Visitors are not permitted to wait in other areas, e.g., hallways or cafeteria.
- Not leave and return on the same day for additional visits.
- Use designated public restrooms on the unit (or otherwise directed) and may not use patient restrooms.
- Leave the premises at the request of the direct care nurse or nurse manager, if needed
- Only visit during campus visiting hours. Overnight stays are restricted and only permitted if coordinated with nurse manager and approved by campus leadership.

Screening requirements for all those entering Swedish locations:

Please ensure you're following the screening process, which is subject to change. All are required to have their temperature taken, declare they have not been exposed to a person who is COVID-19 positive within the last 14 days, and attest they are free of the following COVID-19 symptoms in the last 24-hours (symptoms subject to change):

- Fever over 100°
- Chills
- New cough
- Sore throat
- Shortness of breath / difficulty breathing
- Muscle or body aches (myalgias)
- Fatigue / feeling ill / malaise
- New loss of smell or taste
- New or unusual congestion / runny nose
- Nausea / diarrhea / vomiting
- New or unusual headache