

To our Swedish patients and families,

Thank you for choosing Swedish for your health care needs. Given that COVID-19 continues to be present in the Puget Sound area, we continue to adjust our data-driven policies to ensure the health and well-being of our patients, their families, our caregivers and our community.

Beginning June 9, 2020, in the **In-Patient** areas of Swedish, each patient may identify upon registration up to two (2) individuals as their Patient Supporters to alternate visits during the duration of the patient's stay. Patients may have only one (1) Patient Support person at a time during visiting hours. Patients and Patient Supporters will need to coordinate visits to ensure one visitor at a time. This may be a friend or relative and everyone will be asked to follow the guidelines. For COVID-19 patients, visits will be restricted, please follow the specific guidelines indicated below.

Patient Supporters planning to visit patients in the ICU (Intensive Care Units), should call in advance to arrange a time that is approved by the care team.

In order to keep our patients safe, we continue to restrict other well-wishing visitors and plan to regulate our Patient Supporters. We fully support virtual visiting methods and will continue to promote creative ways for patients to connect with loved ones.

We continue to permit **essential** Patient Supporters needed for escort assistance for mobility, interpretation, emotional or medical decision-making support at all times, as long as they pass the required screening.

Likewise, our Emergency Departments, Women's and Children's, SMC Clinics, Imaging, Radiology, Lab, Surgical Services and SMG/Ambulatory areas have set specific restrictions that are included below.

Thank you for your understanding. This guidance cannot anticipate every situation. Campus leadership may make exceptions to it based on the realities of a given situation, using their best judgment to protect patients and caregivers, acting out of love and compassion for those involved.

Your Swedish Care Team

All Patient Supporters

- Must enter through each campus' Entry Control Points
- Must be at least 18 years of age (no underage siblings)
- Must be screened, be free of any COVID-19 symptom(s) within the last 24 hours of the following:
 - fever (> 100 F)
 - new cough
 - shortness of breath
 - sore throat
 - new muscle pain/achy sore muscles (*myalgias*)
 - new fatigue or sudden onset of discomfort or illness (*malaise*)
 - new loss of sense of smell/taste (*anosmia*)
 - new G.I. symptoms (gastrointestinal, including diarrhea)
 - chills
- Must wear an isolation mask and follow physical distancing protocols at all times in the facility. Wearing personal masks is encouraged; N95 with a valve are restricted. Medical masks will be provided.

- Must go directly to-and-from the patient's location and are not permitted to wait in public areas or unit waiting areas (i.e.: hallways or cafeteria)
- Must use designated public restrooms on unit and may not use patient restrooms
- May not consume Food and/or Drink during visit; may not remove mask. Food and drink are allowed to be brought to patient, and may be consumed only by the patient when inside the room.
- Must leave and exit the premises at the request of the direct care nurse or nurse manager if needed
- Must only visit during campus visiting hours (unless excluded in overnight exception)
- Overnight stays are only permitted if coordinated with direct care nurse or nurse manager. Shared patient rooms are excluded from overnight stays.

COVID-19 Visitation Guidelines

1. **For hospitalized patients recovering from COVID-19 or PUIs (patients under investigation), visits should be restricted.** Visitation for the designated 2 Patient Supporters will only be approved on a case by case basis by the direct care nurse, nurse manager, or senior campus administrator. The designation of the Patient supporters will be identified by the patient or the patient's surrogate decision-maker. Examples of situations for consideration include end of life, prolonged hospitalizations, or other extenuating circumstances.
2. If a patient supporter is approved, an appointment for visits will need to be arranged by the supporter by calling the nursing unit and coordinating a time. During the call, the supporter will be asked to describe to the staff why the patient is hospitalized. If they are unable to demonstrate an awareness of COVID-19, they will not be allowed visitation (the exception to this is if the supporter is the surrogate decision maker and the patient is unable to provide disclosure).
3. If visitation is permitted, upon arrival on the unit, the staff will provide instruction/assistance to the support person regarding donning and doffing of PPE. The informed consent language regarding risk of visitation will be provided in writing and these steps will be documented by the RN in EPIC.

Emergency Department Guidelines:

1. ED patients will be allowed only one (1) Patient Supporter per visit (not multiple people) at the discretion of the ED team.
2. Pediatric patients under the age of 18 may have two (2) parents or guardians, but no additional people
3. Patient Supporters are not allowed for patients presenting with COVID-19 symptoms (PUI) and are not allowed for known COVID-19 positive patients.
4. No minors will be allowed (unless no alternate care options exist)
5. No high-risk Patient Supporters will be allowed (immunocompromised, elderly, pregnant)
6. Patient Supporter must go directly to and stay in the patient's location; if Supporter leaves the room, they have to leave the ED (with possible bathroom exceptions).
7. Patient supporters who are not allowed to accompany the patient into the ED are not allowed to wait in the waiting room

Women's and Children's Guidelines (In-patient):

1. **All children** under the age of 18 years (including NICU patients) may have two (2) people present (advocate, parent, or guardian). These two people must be non-exposed and asymptomatic per screening. They must remain at the bedside the entire visit and may not come and go. For the NICU this must be the mother and the designated 4th band holder. Underage siblings are not permitted to visit.
2. **Laboring patients** may have two support persons who may be a doula, friend, or family member. Multiple visitors will not be able to rotate. Only one support person will be allowed in a C-Section. Once the patient delivers, only the support person with the second adult band will be allowed to stay with the patient on the post-partum unit if the support person is not symptomatic and has not had a positive COVID-19 test. The

support person must be at least 18 years of age. The second parent of the baby may be present regardless of age. Support persons must remain in the room with the patient at all times.

3. **Laboring patients that are COVID-19 positive or are awaiting results** may have one support person present during labor and delivery. One support person may be present on post-partum if the support person is not symptomatic and has not had a positive COVID-19 test. This support person must remain in the room with the patient at all times. No support persons will be allowed in the C-Section room, one support person may be present in pre-op and post-op. The support person must be at least 18 years of age. The second parent of the baby may be present regardless of age. Support persons must remain in the room with the patient at all times.
4. **OBGYN Patients scheduled for non-laboring appointment (ultrasound, etc.)** will be permitted one (1) Support Person to accompany during the OBGYN appointment. No additional persons are allowed to accompany
IE: Partner is allowed but cannot bring child. Children would be allowed in with patient, in the occasion there is no alternative for care.

Behavioral Health In-Patient Units:

1. Behavioral Health In-Patient Units will not permit Patient Supporter visits at this time.

Surgical and Procedural Patient Guidelines:

1. Only **essential** Patient Supporters needed for escort assistance for mobility, interpretation, emotional, or medical decision-making support are allowed to escort a patient. No visitors or additional escorts are allowed except for pediatric patients.
2. An essential supporter is allowed to escort a patient to the appointment check-in but must leave immediately; cannot accompany patient during appointment and cannot wait inside the hospital. Patient Supporters will need to coordinate pick-up prior to discharge.
3. No Patient Supporters will be allowed in patient care areas for Preop or PACU, except for Pediatric cases (patients under 18 years of age).
4. Pediatric patients are always allowed a Parent or guardian to escort. Only asymptomatic parents are allowed - Either another parent accompanies, or the case is delayed. Parent of pediatric patients are permitted to wait in the surgical waiting areas and follow social distancing standards.
5. No visitors are allowed at this time for any patients in the outpatient care areas; Patient Supporters will need to coordinate pick-up prior to discharge.
6. Patient Supporters will need to arrange pick up at the exit points and cannot go inside for pick up. Discharge instructions will be given over the phone when appropriate or in person upon pick up.
7. Only if bedside instruction and demonstration is required, RN will coordinate with Patient Supporter to come inside.
8. Waiting for all short-term care and outpatient cases should be outside the facility if possible. Patient Supporters should always be accessible by phone and have cell signal.

SMC Clinics, Laboratory, Breast Imaging, and Radiology Guidelines:

1. **OBGYN Patients scheduled for non-laboring appointment (ultrasound, etc.)** will be permitted one (1) Support Person to accompany during the OBGYN appointment. No additional persons are allowed to accompany
IE: Partner is allowed but cannot bring child. Children would be allowed in with patient, in the occasion there is no alternative for care.
2. No Patient Supporters are permitted to accompany patients unless there is need for escort assistance essential for mobility, interpretation, emotional, or medical decision-making support. No other Patient Supporter is permitted at this time and must wait in their car.