

# COVID-19: Visitor Restrictions Policy

Effective: December 30, 2021 ( 9:00PM): University and Transitional Care Hospitals

Effective: January 3, 2022: Emergency Department, Outpatient Procedures, and Clinics

UVA Health is prohibiting, with limited exception, routine patient visitation. UVA Health recognizes that visits from family, friends and others are important to our patients. However, these additional measures are necessary to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 and protect our patients, team members, and the community during the current surge in COVID-19 cases.

UVA Health has established standard exceptions for certain patients and circumstances, such as pediatric patients, patients with disabilities, transplant patients, patients giving birth, patients being discharged with complex discharge education, patients with a critical diagnosis or care planning, and patients at the end of life. Visitors and patients are informed of standard exceptions through visitor and patient education materials. Patients or visitors may also speak to their care team if they have questions about the visitation policy or exceptions. Designated Visitors approved by exception are subject to the following requirements:

- Visitors must be 18 years of age or older.
- All visitors will be screened prior to building entry and must be free of contagious disease symptoms such as COVID-19, and be COVID-19 negative.
- Visitors must wear a mask at all times within UVA Health buildings, including at the bedside and in clinic exam rooms. Visitors are encouraged to bring a mask from home, or one will be provided during the screening process.
- Most public spaces (lobby seating, Inpatient Family Lounges) are closed to visitors. Designated visitors are permitted to access the cafeteria, eat in the seating area and use waiting areas (surgical waiting room, clinic waiting rooms, etc.). UVA Health retains the right to further limit this access if necessary.
- Food cannot be taken or eaten in acute or ICU inpatient rooms.
- Large groups of visitors are not permitted to congregate.
- No visitors will be allowed for Patients Under Investigation (PUIs) or COVID-19 positive unless at end of life (follow Special Pathogen Unit guidance), pediatric patient or deemed necessary for the safety or well-being of a patient with a disability or other special need.