



Colleagues,

CareSTL Health updates continue to evolve due to the status of COVID-19 in our community. Additional measures are necessary to protect our patients and our team members from the risk of the virus spreading within our organization. While the leadership team understands that visitors provide important comfort and support, after careful consideration we have decided to implement a no-visitors protocol effective Monday, March 23, 2020.

Signage will be placed at each entry point to reinforce this protocol.

We believe this is a responsible step to help protect our staff, our patients, and our community. Exceptions are possible in extraordinary circumstances, with consultation of leadership. Some examples of areas to consider are:

- Women’s Health patients – one designated visitors (such as a partner)
- Pediatric patients – two designated visitors (parents)
- Behavioral Health/Psychiatric patients– one designated visitors (caregiver)

Visitors who meet the exceptions will be screened before entering the health centers.

Further, no visitors will be allowed who meet any one of these criteria:

- Signs or symptoms of acute illness (fever, cough, difficulty breathing)
- Recent travel (within the last 14 days) from an area with community transmission of COVID-19
- Recent contact (within the last 14 days) with someone suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19

Exemptions may not apply for visiting patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, and COVID-19 isolation protocol must be followed.

Visitors who are permitted must:

- Remain in the patient’s room for duration of visit or designated waiting area within the department or module with no access to other areas in the health centers.
- Perform hand hygiene including washing their hands with soap and water for at least 30 seconds or utilizing alcohol based hand sanitizer
- Notify the clinical care team if signs or symptoms of illness develop during visit

We understand these are unusual and exceptional measures and appreciate your cooperation. We believe these are important steps to protect the safety of our patients, our team members and our community.

Take Care!