



**Visitor Restriction Guidance for UAB Medicine
Inpatient and Ambulatory Sites
UPDATED 22 June 2020**

Per the “Safer at Home” state order issued by Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey, visitors remain restricted in hospitals. Exceptions or continued restrictions for units, clinics, and programs are set forth below. Exceptions may be allowed in situations where a caregiver’s presence improves the patient’s safety, emotional well-being, physical care, or end-of-life experience (compassionate care). Compliance with guidelines below is required at all times.

COVID-19 & Symptomatic PUI Inpatients

- COVID-19 positive or Symptomatic PUI patients will not be allowed to have any caregivers present at the bedside except in end-of-life situations.

Non-COVID Inpatients

- One competent caregiver shall be considered in situations where his/her presence improves the patient’s safety, emotional well-being, or physical care. The one caregiver must:
 - Be competent in his/her ability to improve the care and understanding of the patient.
 - Follow Universal Masking Guidelines: Patients and caregivers should be wearing their own face covering upon arrival to the facility and must wear it at all times. If they do not have a face covering, a facemask should be offered as supplies allow, which should be worn while they are in the facility. Face coverings can be made of a variety of materials, including cloth, for the purpose of Universal Source Control. Face coverings should not be placed on children under the age of 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance. Individuals who are unable to wear a mask should consider not visiting due to the increased risk of disease transmission.
 - Agree to practice appropriate hand hygiene and limit the touching of surfaces in patient care areas.
 - Stay in the room: Caregivers are asked to remain in the patient’s room and not leave the unit or roam the hospital except for basic personal needs (ex: food, restroom) Caregivers may order meals through room service, for a nominal fee of \$8/tray. Caregivers can call 205-934-MEAL (6325).
 - Comply with entrance screening: We will continue limited and monitored points of entry, with active visitor screening upon entry. Entrance screening will be overseen by Guest Services in collaboration with nursing.
 - Designated areas of entry into facilities allow for continued screening of caregivers for symptoms using key questions and temperature

checks. Entry will be denied to anyone who screens positive for symptoms of COVID-19 such as a temperature above 100.4, cough or shortness of breath.

- Caregivers are asked to wear a visitor badge at all times. Guest Services provides visitor badges at all entrance screening locations.
- The designated entrances will only be open between 5 am and 8 pm. Caregivers, as defined above, will not be allowed to enter after 8pm. Any emergency need should be escalated to Guest Services at their 24/7 locations (UED, HED, WIC, NP 2nd floor)

Surgical/Procedural Guidance

- One caregiver (meeting the above requirements) may accompany the patient to assist with entry into the hospital and registration.
 - Caregivers will be permitted to utilize existing waiting rooms as long as space is available in consideration of social distancing requirements.
 - Caregivers who choose to wait in the facility are asked to remain in the waiting room and not leave the unit or roam the hospital except for basic personal needs (e.g. food, restroom)

End-of-Life Guidance

- For non-COVID-19 patients in which death is reasonably anticipated within 24-48 hours, two caregivers (meeting the above requirements) will be allowed at the bedside
 - Caregivers may rotate with other caregivers
- For PUI/COVID-19 patients, only one caregiver will be allowed at the bedside, pursuant to approval from the attending physician due to limited PPE.
 - Caregivers will be required to follow all instructions from clinical staff related to hand washing, PPE, entry/exit, length of time with patient etc.

Emergency Departments

- No caregiver will be permitted unless deemed by the care team as necessary for patient care or for end-of-life considerations. If approved by the clinical team, the one caregiver (meeting the above requirement) is to remain in the patient's room.

Inpatient Psychiatry Units

- No caregivers will be permitted to visit. Telephone visitation is available and encouraged.

Rehabilitation Services

- Caregivers in training are allowed to support safe discharge from inpatient rehabilitation.
 - The caregiver is screened at the front entrance for symptoms and temperature check taken.

- The caregiver is asked to bring his/her own face mask, which is to be worn at all times. If the caregiver arrives without a mask, one will be provided.
- Only one caregiver is allowed at a time.
- The front entrance of Spain Rehabilitation Center is open 8 am-5 pm, seven days per week. Any caregiver who does not want to spend the night must leave by 5 pm.

Women's Services

- Each patient will be allowed one caregiver/support person to accompany them throughout their stay.
- Support person guidance:
 - The support person will be screened on admission. If the support person does not pass screening, they will not be allowed to enter the facility.
 - The support person will be required to wear a mask at all times.
 - The support person will not be allowed to rotate with others during the patient's stay, as we continue to recognize the importance of reducing unnecessary exposure.
 - COVID-19 positive or Symptomatic PUI patients will not be allowed to have any visitors, including support person.

Neonatal Services (RNICU/CCN)

- Each neonatal admission will be allowed visitation by mother and one support person.
- Neonatal visitor guidance:
 - Mother/support person will be screened prior to admission to the ICU. Anyone failing the screening process will not be allowed to enter the unit/facility.
 - Mother/support person will be required to wear a mask at all times while in the facility.

Ambulatory Clinics

- Visitors will not be allowed except for those meeting a compassionate care qualification. One caregiver/support person will be allowed to accompany the patient **only** when one of the following circumstances are met.
 - Patient has an oncology or infusion appointment.
 - Patient is undergoing complex procedures (oral surgery, endoscopies, etc.)
 - Patient has cognitive and/or memory disorder.
- All caregivers must wear a mask.
- Symptomatic screening to include temperature check will be conducted at specified entrances.
- Proper social distancing at 6 feet is maintained at all times while within the facility. Seating and elevator restrictions will be marked by signage to ensure adequate distancing.

- Visitors who do not qualify for an exception will be asked to remain in their car until the patient visit is complete. In the event there is a specific challenge to the Compassionate Care Visitor Policy, the nurse manager for the area will have the final decision in determining entrance into the facility. This decision will be made after consultation with the attending provider.
- Patients will receive Pre-visit Notification with specific instructions prior to arrival of their appointment.