

The Valley Hospital Visitation Guidelines

IN EFFECT AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2021

VISITING HOURS: 12–8 p.m.

To better support our patients and allow their loved ones to help in their healing – and to enable more visitors to visit loved ones at The Valley Hospital – **as of November 1, 2021, we are expanding our visitation policy** to allow one visitor per day, versus the prior policy of one visitor per hospital stay. **We are also extending our visiting hours (12–8 p.m.)**, so visitors will be able to visit patients for a longer period of time – which we know assists in healing.

To ensure we can do this safely and to protect our patients, visitors and staff, **visitors must provide proof of vaccination. PLEASE NOTE:** Special exceptions will be made for Labor & Delivery, Mother/Baby, Pediatrics, end-of-life and other circumstances.

ACCEPTABLE FORMS OF PROOF: Vaccination card • Docket app • Excelsior app • NYC COVID Safe app

As a reminder, all visitors must be at least 18 years of age. All visitors are required to wear a mask and practice social distancing while at The Valley Hospital. Eating is strictly prohibited, with exceptions in designated areas such as Pediatrics, Mother/Baby, Labor & Delivery, and the surgical waiting area in the Bergen lobby. Drinking is allowed, but masks must remain in place except when taking a sip.

Emergency Department: One designated visitor, regardless of vaccination status, is permitted for the duration of the stay. No visitors allowed for COVID+ or suspected COVID-19 patients. If a patient is admitted to the hospital from the Emergency Department, please follow the instructions below and note that unvaccinated visitors will not be permitted.

- All visitors must exit the Emergency Department and report to the reception area in the Cheel lobby to be screened and have their temperature taken.
- Visitors must present proof of COVID-19 vaccination* and legal ID before being issued a visitor badge. *PLEASE NOTE: photos of COVID-19 vaccination cards will be accepted only on the day of admission. For all future visits, visitors must present the physical vaccination card or show proof of vaccination on one of the vaccination card apps listed above.

Exception: Pediatrics – two parents or guardians, regardless of vaccination status, may visit at the same time for the duration of the stay.

Adult Inpatient: One vaccinated visitor is allowed per patient, per day. Vaccinated visitors can be present at the same time in semi-private rooms.

Women and Children's Services: The following units permit balloons, flowers and food for immediate consumption to be picked up in the main lobby by the designated support person. (Exception: No deliveries to the NICU.)

- **Pediatrics:** Two parents or guardians, regardless of vaccination status, may visit at the same time, unless COVID+ and PUI guidelines apply. Siblings may be permitted for end-of-life. (Exception: Flowers and Mylar balloons only – no latex.)
- **Obstetrics/Labor & Delivery (L&D):** One vaccinated, designated support person (must be the same person) for the duration of stay.
 - ▶ Vaccinated support person for L&D may enter and exit the premises once per 24 hours. Unvaccinated visitors may not leave the premises.
 - Exception:** For scheduled deliveries/inductions, support person must show proof of a negative COVID-19 test within 24 hours of arrival. Unscheduled deliveries will require support person to receive a COVID-19 test upon arrival to the L&D unit.
- **Mother/Baby:** One vaccinated designated support person (must be the same person) for the duration of stay.
 - ▶ If the patient and support person are both fully vaccinated, one additional visitor will be allowed per day, once the patient has delivered and is on the Mother/Baby unit.
 - Exception:** If the support person is unvaccinated, they can accompany the patient from L&D to Mother/Baby, but they must remain in the room for the remainder of stay.
- **Antepartum patients:** One vaccinated visitor per day during visiting hours.
- **NICU:** Two scheduled visits per day, regardless of vaccination status. First visit: One parent or guardian. Second visit: Both parents or guardians.

Surgery/Procedure Patients: No visitors allowed.

Exception: During the pre- or post-procedure time period, one parent, regardless of vaccination status, will be permitted for pediatric patients and one support person, regardless of vaccination status, for patients with intellectual, developmental, or other cognitive disability.

Immunocompromised Patients: No visitors, balloons, or flowers.

Exception: One parent or one guardian, regardless of vaccination status, of pediatric patients for the duration of the stay.

Exception: One visitor, regardless of vaccination status, must be the same person, for patients with intellectual, developmental, or other cognitive disability for the duration of the stay.

Exception: One visitor, regardless of vaccination status, must be the same person, for patients receiving end-of-life care.

End-of-Life: Up to four vaccinated visitors may visit at the same time. Visitors may switch throughout the day. Clergy must be pre-approved through Patient Relations and show proof of COVID-19 vaccination card. If unvaccinated, two immediate family members will be granted visitation for a maximum of two hours.

Family Meetings/Change in Patient Status: Unvaccinated, immediate family members will be granted visitation for a maximum of two hours and must be approved by Patient and Family Relations.

Vendors/Consultants: Must show proof of COVID-19 vaccination card. (Fully vaccinated are permitted on site.)

The Luckow Pavilion and Other Off-Site Locations will continue to follow the building specific guidelines currently in place.

