

Office of Origin: Department of Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Control

I. POLICY

The Medical Center understands the need and encourages patients to be visited by their family and friends. To protect our patients, the Medical Center requires patients' family and friends to be free of an active or incubating infection when visiting.

II. REFERENCES

[Airborne Precautions](#)
[Clostridium-difficile information sheet](#)
[Contact Precautions information sheet](#)
[Droplet Precautions information sheet](#)
[Respiratory Virus Information sheet](#)
[Child Life Infection Control Policy](#)

The following are guidelines and recommendations for visitors.

1. Visitors with respiratory, skin, or acute gastrointestinal infections should not visit.
2. Visitors (adults and children) who have been exposed and may be incubating a communicable disease (e.g., chicken pox, measles, or german measles) should not visit and should not be brought to communal patient care unit areas such as waiting rooms, solariums or playrooms.
3. Visitors should be instructed to use hand hygiene.
4. Visitors should be instructed in the correct use of gowns, gloves and masks.

The following are guidelines and responsibilities for staff:

1. Screen visitors for active or incubating infections as noted above. This is especially important on pediatric and neonatal units and for patients who are immunosuppressed.
2. Explain necessary precautions and assist visitors with the use of appropriate barriers (e.g., hand hygiene, mask, gown and gloves).

III. HISTORY OF POLICY

Revised 9/89, 4/01, 4/04, 10/04, 7/07, 6/12

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