

## **Visitor Screening/Expectations:**

1. All visitors presenting to Buchanan County Health Center (BCHC) will be screened per current practice for symptoms of illness
2. All visitors will be expected to wear a mask for the entirety of their visit, this includes while within the patient room
3. Visitors for outpatient appointments (lab, radiology, clinics, etc.) are not allowed unless:
  - a. Patient is a minor, dependent adult, or adult who requires assistance
4. Visitors for inpatient, surgery, and emergency department patients will be limited to one healthy visitor over age 18 at a time
  - a. Exception: minor child may have both parents present at the same time, manager discretion if others are necessary for teaching related to the patient's care upon discharge, and end of life—see guidance below
5. Visitors who are positive for COVID-19 or are displaying symptoms of illness will **not** be permitted to visit.
  - a. Exception: patient who is at the end of life may have their significant other visit even if displaying signs of illness/known COVID-19 positive (see guidance below)
6. COVID-19 positive or suspected patients will **not** be allowed to have visitors unless one is necessary for the patient's safety or in end of life situations (see guidance below)

## **Visitation Guidelines for COVID-19 Positive/Suspected Patients at End of Life**

1. Two healthy visitors over age 18 will be allowed at one time (provider discretion if a close family member is under 18 and requesting to visit)
  - a. Exceptions:
    - i. If patient's significant other is ill but well enough to visit:
      1. The significant other should be escorted by a staff member (staff wearing appropriate respirator and face shield) in through the Dialysis Entrance if patient is on MedSurg Unit or in through the Emergency Entrance if patient is in the ED
      2. Significant other will be provided a surgical mask at the entrance and it must remain on throughout the duration of time in the building
        - a. If unable to tolerate a surgical mask for the visit, then the significant other will be unable to visit
      3. Significant other will only be allowed in the patient's room and will exit with staff escort (staff wearing appropriate respirator and face shield) immediately after leaving the patient's room through the same entrance they entered through
    - ii. If the patient is requiring a family member as a sitter for their safety, this sitter does not count in the number of visitors allowed in the room

## Visitation during COVID-19 Pandemic

- iii. Pastoral care does not count in the number of visitors allowed in the room
2. Visitors are to be instructed by staff members on proper hand hygiene and expected to complete prior to entering the patient's room and upon exiting the patient's room
3. Visitors will be shown by staff members how to don/doff appropriate PPE to be worn during their visit. This PPE includes:
  - a. Surgical face mask (to remain on the visitor until they have exited the building)
  - b. Face shield
  - c. Cloth disposable gown (if none available, disposable isolation gown may be used)
4. Visitors are to remain in the patient room until they are done with their visit for the day
  - a. No visiting other areas in the hospital (café, gift shop, etc.)
  - b. May use public restroom
5. The patient is to wear a surgical mask for the duration of the visit as well, if the patient is unable to tolerate wearing a mask, see below for guidance

### **If the COVID-19 patient is unable to tolerate a mask:**

1. If the COVID-19 positive or suspected patient is unable to tolerate wearing a mask while visitors are present in the room, the visitors will be considered exposed and need to quarantine for at least 10 days after their last exposure to the patient (***see below FAQ for Visitors of COVID-19 Patients, give a copy to visitors for reference***)
  - a. Exception: if a visitor enters the room for a brief moment to say their goodbyes and then exits the room (total time in the room less than 15 minutes), they would not be considered exposed
  - b. Exception: if a visitor was positive for COVID-19 themselves within the 90 days prior to their visit, they would not need to quarantine unless they develop symptoms
  - c. Exception: if a visitor has received complete series of COVID-19 vaccination, is two weeks post last dose, **and** is within 3 months of last vaccine-they would not need to quarantine unless they develop symptoms

### **Visitation Guidelines for COVID-19 Negative Patients at End of Life**

1. Two healthy visitors over age 18 allowed at one time (provider discretion if a close family member is under 18 and requesting to visit)
2. Per nursing/provider discretion if visitor traffic is heavy and causing disruptions in patient care or unit efficiency, can enforce limit of two healthy visitors per 24 hour period.

# FAQ for Visitors of COVID-19 Patients

<p><b>Who needs to quarantine?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Those who have been in close contact (see definition below) with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Exception: If you tested positive for COVID-19 yourself within the 90 days prior to your visit as long as you do not develop any symptoms <u>or</u> you are between 2 weeks- 3 months since final COVID-19 vaccine dose as long as you do not develop any symptoms</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>What does close contact mean?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You were within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for 15 minutes or more</li> <li>• You provided care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19</li> <li>• You had direct physical contact with the COVID-19 positive person (hug, kiss, etc.)</li> <li>• You shared eating or drinking utensils</li> <li>• You were sneezed on, coughed on, or got respiratory droplets on you by someone with COVID-19</li> </ul>
<p><b>Steps to take after visit if one or more of the statements under “what does close contact mean?” is true:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stay home for at least 10 days after your last visit with a COVID-19 positive person and monitor your health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ This includes not having any visitors over to your house</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Monitor yourself for symptoms associated with COVID-19 such as: fever (temperature 100°F or higher), cough, shortness of breath, new loss of taste or smell, new onset body aches, chills, sore throat, congestion, runny nose, strong headache, nausea/vomiting, or diarrhea <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If you develop symptoms and require medical care or testing, please inform them of your exposure</li> <li>○ If you develop symptoms, you must stay home and isolate until all of the following are met: at least 10 days from symptom onset <u>and</u> 24 hours fever free <u>and</u> improvement in other symptoms</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Stay away from others, especially people who are at higher risk for getting very sick from COVID-19 (immunocompromised, chronic health conditions, elderly, etc.)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Area Public Health Phone Numbers</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buchanan County: 319-332-0860</li> <li>• Fayette County: 563-422-6267</li> <li>• Benton County: 319-472-6360</li> <li>• Delaware County: 563-927-7551</li> <li>• Linn County: 319-892-6000</li> <li>• Black Hawk County: 319-291-2413</li> <li>• Clayton County: 563-245-2451</li> </ul>
<p><b>Resources for COVID-19 Information</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Iowa COVID-19 Information Line: 211</li> <li>• BCHC Call Center: 319-596-2180</li> <li>• Website: <a href="https://coronavirus.iowa.gov">coronavirus.iowa.gov</a></li> </ul>