

SAMARITAN HOSPITAL SUPPORT PERSON & VISITOR POLICY

Support Person: an individual who is in a support role for a patient or who is legally responsible for making health care decisions on behalf of a patient. The support person may include a family member, friend, or another individual who is there to support the patient and serves an essential role in the care of the patient. The role of a support person is not limited to a relationship that is legally recognized in Washington. The designation of a support person is not intended to supplant Washington law concerning the patient's legal representative.

Visitor: Friend, family member, or loved one wanting to visit with a patient.

As the organization continues to follow CDC recommendations to protect our patients, staff, and community from potential exposure to COVID-19, Samaritan Healthcare has enacted the following support person & visitor policies for the Samaritan Hospital campus:

- All support persons & visitors are required to pass the wellness screening checkpoint, and wear a mask prior to visiting any patient unit; masks are not required for patients 2 years old or younger
- All minors are allowed (1) support person
- Anyone needing physical or developmental assistance is allowed (1) support person
- Any patient who is symptomatic and is under investigation of COVID-19, or is a confirmed COVID-19 patient, support persons and/or visitors are not allowed

The following unit-specific policies apply:

- **Emergency Department:**
 - All minors are allowed (1) support person
 - Anyone needing physical or developmental assistance is allowed (1) support person
 - Visitors may be allowed per nursing discretion
- **Mother Baby Unit:**
 - Patients are allowed (2) healthy support persons with them during labor; two hours after delivery only one support person will be able to remain at bedside, and the additional support person will be asked to leave the hospital
 - Scheduled C-Section patients allowed (1) support person
- **Surgery:**
 - Support person per surgical or procedural patient. For surgical patients admitted to the hospital, support person may stay for 30 minutes post procedure to ensure patient comfort
- **Med/Surg or ICU:**
 - All minors are allowed 1 support person
 - Anyone needing physical or developmental assistance is allowed (1) support person
 - visitor is allowed during time of discharge
 - visitors allowed for patients who are at end-of-life
- **Diagnostic Imaging:**
 - Anyone needing physical or developmental assistance is allowed (1) support person
 - Pediatric patients are allowed (1) support person
 - OB patients are allowed (1) support person

Please note, Samaritan Healthcare supports and recommends telecommunications for all chaplaincy or clergy support during the pandemic. However, for patients requesting in-person chaplain or clergy support, please contact the patient care unit director or designee.