

# Houston Methodist HEALTH CARE NOTICE

## VISITOR POLICY (effective 09/01/2021)

Under state law, patients may have 1 healthy visitor (18 years or older) at a time, except in emergency departments.

For everyone's safety and to prevent the spread of COVID-19, we strongly discourage visitors. We encourage only vaccinated visitors enter the hospital or physician offices. All visitors are required to wear a mask for the entirety of their visit and are subject to Houston Methodist's screening policy.

### Emergency department

**No visitors are allowed in the emergency department waiting room.** Visitors will be notified once the emergency patient is in a treatment room and it is deemed safe for the patient to have a visitor.

### Hospitalized patients, procedures, treatments, doctor appointments and vaccine clinics

Generally, each patient is allowed **1 healthy visitor in the facility at a time**. For example:

- Hospitalized patients are allowed **1 healthy overnight visitor** (18 years or older).
- Labor and delivery patients are allowed **1 healthy visitor at a time** (18 years or older). **One healthy visitor** (18 years or older) may stay overnight.  
For the Neonatal ICU, **both parents** will be allowed to visit.
- On the day of surgery, **1 healthy visitor at a time** is allowed to stay in the waiting room during surgery, then accompany the patient back to the unit.

### COVID-19 or other infectious hospitalized patients

**Visitors are not allowed if the patient's attending physician deems it unsafe.** Otherwise, 1 healthy visitor (18 years or older) will be allowed and will be required to wear the necessary safety equipment at all times.

### Exceptions

- Special consideration will be made for disabled patients who may need more than 1 visitor to provide support and knowledge about their care.
- Visitor policies will vary for long-term acute care hospitals (LTACHs).
- If you feel an exception is needed, please speak to management.
- Any physician may make an exception to this rule for compassionate reasons, based on the patient's medical condition.
- Patient's clergy may visit without being "counted" against the patient's visitor limit.
- Visitor hours may be determined by each unit.

**MASKS ARE REQUIRED IN ALL HOUSTON METHODIST FACILITIES.**