

# STATE OF RHODE ISLAND



Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities & Hospitals

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## COVID-19 Visitation Guidance for Eleanor Slater Hospital

This memo is to clarify the visitation policy at the hospital during periods when there are COVID-19 positive individuals in the hospital and/or elevated community rates of COVID-19 infections.

ESH will allow family and friends to visit patients at the discretion of nursing. There must be adequate space **off-unit** for visiting to occur which allows social distancing, however, this may limit the number of visitors allowed at a particular point in time. Exceptions will occur if there is a clinical reason a patient cannot be moved. Visits are non-contact at this time.

### Visitation Requirements:

1. All visitors must show evidence of vaccination and booster vaccination against COVID-19 or must show a paper copy or electronic proof of a negative COVID-19 test. The result may come from either a rapid antigen test (BinaxNOW) within 48 hours or a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test completed within 72 hours of the visit. Visitors may also show proof of positive test result within last 90 days, but past the 10-day isolation period. Anyone who does not comply with these requirements will not be permitted to remain within the hospital.
2. Every visitor, and patient receiving the visitor, must be masked. Visitors are asked to wear an N95 mask which can be provided by the hospital. Patients may use an N95 mask or, if they find it difficult to wear the N95 mask, they may wear a surgical mask. Masking requirements apply for all except visitors under two years of age or visitors/patients having a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a mask.
3. All visitors will be screened for symptoms at the building entrance and those with positive symptom screens will not be permitted to enter the hospital.
4. We ask that all visits take place off-unit unless there is a clinical reason a patient needs to stay in their room.
5. At the discretion of nursing, designated areas may be used for visits. Nursing will notify housekeeping following a visit for cleaning after the visit ends.

Thank you for your attention to this guidance. It is important for our patients to be able to have visitors while observing safety precautions for staff, our patients, and their visitors. We look forward to making sure visits continue to occur during uncertain times.