



Health Alert



Public Health Order Amendment and Hospital Visitation Recommendations by COVID-19 Risk Level

December 16, 2020

Summary and Action Items

- Though Chicago essential businesses are open, we are currently in state-wide [Tier 3 Resurgence Mitigation](#) which includes a stay-at-home advisory effective November 20, 2020.
- **CDPH Hospital Visitation Guidance will now be guided by 7-day Rolling Averages for Test Positivity Rates and Hospital System Capacity and Hospital Admissions as they relate to City of Chicago Risk Level and Goals: Red, Yellow, Green**
- [Public Health Order 2020-2](#) was amended to reflect the change.

Background:

Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) recognizes that during the COVID-19 pandemic, hospitals have had to balance the safety of staff and patients with compassionate care and common-sense policies. In general, the following hospital visitation guidance applies to Emergency Department, Obstetrics/L&D, Surgery/Procedure patients, Adult In-patient, Pediatrics, Psychiatry, Immunocompromised wards, and End of Life. When risk levels change, a health alert will be sent to the hospitals to reflect a need to reconsider visitation policies. More stringent visitor restrictions than those recommended by CDPH may be warranted based on hospital assessment of other factors (e.g., staffing, nursing or infection control assessment of visitor compliance with masking). Criteria for risk categories may change based on new information (e.g., regarding new data transmission risks).

CURRENT HOSPITAL RISK LEVEL IS: **RED**

METRIC	RED	YELLOW	GREEN
City or Hospital Positivity Rate 7-day rolling daily average (7DRA)	>10%	5-10%	<5%
	OR	AND	AND
Citywide Hospital system capacity* (7DRA)	>1200 non-ICU beds occupied or >250 ICU beds occupied or >300 vents in use	<1000 non-ICU beds occupied <150 ICU beds occupied <150 vents in use	<1000 non-ICU beds occupied <150 ICU beds occupied <150 vents in use
	OR	AND	AND
Hospital admissions* (7DRA)	Non-sustained decline over a 14 out of 28-day period	Stable or declining over 14 days	Stable or declining over 28 days

*Refers to COVID-19 patients. NOTE: All criteria must be met for risk level to be categorized as Yellow or Green.

Red Level Hospital Visitation Guidance: During this period of highest COVID-19 community risk, **CDPH recommends no visitors**, with limited exceptions as noted below. All exceptions **MUST** be approved by care team in advance of visit. Exceptions may apply to pediatrics, labor and delivery, end of life, and patients with intellectual, developmental or cognitive impairment including dementia, communication barriers or behavioral concerns. A patient's care team may make additional compassionate exceptions, as appropriate, and as permitted by Hospital Infection Control and Prevention.

Emergency Department:

- Exceptions may apply to pediatrics (below), Labor and delivery, end of life, and patients with intellectual, developmental or cognitive impairment including dementia, communication barriers or behavioral concerns
- Pediatrics: Only one parent or one guardian of pediatric patients for the duration of stay in ED

Adult In-patient:

- Exceptions could include: One visitor, must be the same person, for patients in hospital more than 72 hours and one visitor at discharge for bedside discharge directions and education

Pediatrics In-patient:

- Exceptions could include: Up to two parents or guardians may visit at the same time (must be the same two throughout stay), as permitted by hospital infection prevention guidelines

Obstetrics/L&D:

- Exceptions could include: one visitor, must be the same person, for duration of birth parent's stay or one doula (must be the same doula) for duration of birth parent's stay

Surgery/Procedure patients:

- Exceptions could include: provided social distancing can be accomplished, one visitor until patient is taken into prep, visitor must then leave
 - Exceptions may apply to pediatrics, labor and delivery, end of life, and patients with intellectual, developmental or cognitive impairment including dementia, communication barriers or behavioral concerns

End of Life:

- Exceptions could include: up to two visitors at a time (including siblings for pediatric patients), and visitors may switch throughout the day, one visitor allowed at a time for immunocompromised patients

Yellow Level Hospital Visitation Guidance: During this period of moderate COVID-19 community risk, **CDPH recommends limited visitors**, with exceptions as noted below. Exceptions may apply to care of immunocompromised patients who in general should have no visitors for the duration of their stay. A patient's care team may make additional compassionate exceptions, as appropriate, and as permitted by Hospital Infection Control and Prevention. All exceptions **MUST** be approved by care team in advance of visit.

Emergency Department:

- Allowed: one visitor (must be same person) for duration of stay

Obstetrics/L&D:

- Allowed: one visitor, must be the same person, for duration of birth parent's stay or one doula (must be the same doula) for duration of birth parent's stay

Surgery/Procedure patients:

- Allowed: provided social distancing can be accomplished, one visitor until patient is taken into prep
- Allowed: One visitor when patient is in recovery and preparing for discharge

Adult In-patient:

- Allowed: One visitor at a time, visitor may change but cannot overlap

Pediatrics:

- Allowed: Up to two parents or guardians may visit at the same time (must be the same two throughout stay), as permitted by hospital infection prevention guidelines

Immunocompromised:

- NO visitors though exceptions may broadly apply to pediatrics, labor and delivery, end of life, and patients with intellectual, developmental or cognitive impairment including dementia, communication barriers or behavioral concerns.
 - EXCEPTION: one parent or one guardian of pediatric patients for the duration of stay
 - EXCEPTION: one visitor, must be same person, for patients receiving end of life care

Psychiatry:

- Allowed: one visitor (must be same person) for duration of the stay at discretion of care team and approved in advance of visit

End of Life:

- Allowed: up to two visitors at a time (including siblings for pediatric patients), and visitors may switch throughout the day

Green Level Hospital Visitation Guidance: During this period of lower COVID-19 community risk, **visitors are permitted with some limits.** Exceptions may apply to care of immunocompromised patients who in general should have no visitors for the duration of their stay. A patient's care team may make additional compassionate exceptions, as appropriate, and as permitted by Hospital Infection Control and Prevention. All exceptions **MUST** be approved by care team in advance of visit.

Emergency Department:

- Allowed: Up to two visitors for duration of stay

Obstetrics/L&D:

- Allowed: Up to two visitors at the same time
- Allowed: one doula (must be the same doula) for duration of birth parent's stay

Surgery/Procedure patients:

- Allowed: provided social distancing can be accomplished, one visitor until patient is taken into prep
- Allowed: One visitor when patient is in recovery and preparing for discharge

Adult In-patient:

- Allowed: Up to two visitors at a time

Pediatrics

- Allowed: Two parents or guardians may visit at the same time, as permitted by hospital infection prevention guidelines

Immunocompromised:

- NO visitors though exceptions may broadly apply to pediatrics, labor and delivery, end of life, and patients with intellectual, developmental or cognitive impairment including dementia, communication barriers or behavioral concerns.
 - EXCEPTION: one parent or one guardian of pediatric patients for the duration of stay
 - EXCEPTION: one visitor, must be same person, for patients receiving end of life care

Psychiatry

- Allowed: one visitor (must be same person) for duration of the stay at discretion of care team and approved in advance of visit

End of Life:

- Allowed: No limit on number of visitors permitted, provided care team approves and deems it is safe and feasible to meet social distancing guidelines