

Restrictions on Visitors to Inpatient Hospitals and Outpatient Locations—June 2020

An Executive Order from Michigan's Governor remains in place restricting entry into health care facilities, residential care facilities, congregate care facilities, and juvenile justice facilities. The order allows the Director of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to make exceptions to these restrictions.

On June 3, 2020, the Director issued an Emergency Order giving hospitals an exception to the strict limits on visitors to health care facilities. In order to take advantage of this exception, a hospital (including a psychiatric hospital) or health system must do all of the following:

- Limits visitor entry to designated entrances that allow proper screening;
- Posts signage at any visitor entrance instructing visitors to be assessed for symptoms of COVID-19 before entry and instructing persons who have symptoms of a respiratory infection, including, but not limited to, fever, cough, or shortness of breath to not enter the facility;
- Consistent with Executive Order 2020-108, performs a health evaluation of all individuals that are not under the care of the facility each time the individual seeks to enter the facility, and denies entry to those individuals who do not meet the evaluation criteria. The evaluation criteria must include, at a minimum, COVID-19 diagnosis; symptoms of a respiratory infection, such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath; and contact in the last 14 days with someone with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19.
- Strongly discourages entering any facility to visit persons at high risk of developing severe complications from COVID-19, including older adults and persons with underlying medical conditions;
- Restricts visitation to the patient's room or other designated locations;
- Requires visitors who are medically able to wear a mask or other cloth face covering for the duration of their visit, and swiftly removes from the facility visitors who fail to abide by this requirement;
- For in-patient stays, makes available on-site and off-site alternatives to in-person visits, such as video or audio calls;
- Disallows visitation during aerosol-generating procedures or during collection of respiratory specimens unless deemed necessary by hospital staff for the care and wellbeing of the patient; and
- Permits visitation only during select hours and limits the number of visitors per patient.

Note, there is no specific number of visitors allowed in any situation. There is only a requirement for a limit. The opportunity for exercising this exemption is also available to outpatient clinics and physician offices. It is not yet extended to nursing homes, or the other congregate care settings listed in the Governor Whitmer's Executive Order.

Brian Peters, *Chief Executive Officer*