

Dear Patients and Families,

The health and safety of our patients and visitors is our top priority at St. Luke's University Health Network. We understand how important the support of loved ones and friends is to patients during their hospital stay. Unfortunately, the presence of the coronavirus (COVID-19) in our communities is requiring our hospital to change its visitation policies. These measures are being taken to assure the safety of our patients and our community. St. Luke's University Health Network (SLUHN) together with Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN) have partnered to establish and implement a standardized visitation policy to assure consistency and safety across our region.

*Effective today, Monday, March 16, 2020 at 5 p.m. these temporary visitation guidelines will be in effect indefinitely and are subject to change as required.*

In our hospitals and other inpatient facilities, no visitors are permitted except under these special circumstances:

- ***Visitation of a patient nearing the end of life***
- ***Parent visitation of a child in a pediatric ICU or neonatal ICU***
- ***One coach or partner per patient on labor and delivery unit***
- ***One visitor at a time for patients in inpatient hospice unit***
- ***One parent/Guardian at a time for pediatric patients***
- ***One visitor to accompany patients for hospital discharge***
- ***One visitor for patients undergoing same-day surgeries and procedures***
- ***One visitor per patient in the Emergency Department***
- ***No child under age 12 is permitted to visit in the hospital***

For all outpatient appointments, one visitor is permitted to accompany a patient for an outpatient appointment, procedure, same-day surgery or LVPG/SLPG office visit. We will make reasonable accommodations for pediatric visits, provided any sibling visitors are in good health. Visitors allowed by exception must be in good health and are subject to a health screening, if necessary.

SLUHN and LVHN understand these revisions in visitation policies might present difficulties for some patients, family members and friends and we are sympathetic to those concerns. At the same time, we must be responsible to the communities we serve and do what is best to protect everyone. We urge those who might be impacted to please cooperate with our doctors, nurses and staff as they care for our patients and help to manage this national health issue.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Carol Kuplen  
Chief Nursing Officer - SLUHN  
President - SLUH