Emergency Department leadership unequivocally believes that patients should have the support of their family when feasible. *All patients will be allowed at least one visitor*, provided the visitor meets the below criteria and follows the outlined rules.

The Emergency Department’s visitor guidelines are different from the inpatient units’ visitor guidelines in the following ways:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Inpatient</th>
<th>ED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Visiting hours</strong></td>
<td>Restricted – hours vary by hospital</td>
<td>24/7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Visitor eligibility</strong></td>
<td>Must be vaccinated or have proof of negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours</td>
<td>No restrictions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Visitor age</strong></td>
<td>12 or older</td>
<td>18 or older</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Before a Visit**
- Visitors must be 18 years of age or older.
  - Any visitors under the age of 18 should not be allowed into the Emergency Department.
  - Accommodations will be made for parents of pediatric patients with more than one child present.
- Visitors must wear a surgical mask during their visit. A mask will be provided if needed.
- Visitors must wash their hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer before entering and exiting their loved one’s room.
- Visitors will be screened for COVID-19 to confirm no recent infection, no close contacts and temperature status.
  - There are no restrictions on visitor entry for COVID-19 positive patients.

**During a Visit**
- One visitor at a time is allowed.
- Visitors must maintain safe distance practices.
- While in the ED, visitors must remain either in the patient’s room or at the patient’s bedside.
- If any aerosol-generating treatments are required for COVID-19 positive patient care, visitors will be asked to leave the Emergency Department.

**If Patient is Admitted**
- Visitors should be directed to hospital main entrances to be re-screened and receive information on inpatient visiting hours.

*Visitors who do not comply with all of the above requirements will be asked to leave.*

During surge times, the visitor allowances may change. Please refer to the document entitled “ED Visitation Policy Tables” to determine visitor guidelines in times of surge.

**Special Considerations**

Pediatric patients, patients with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities, and patients with cognitive impairments (including dementia) may designate one support person to remain with them at all times.