



COVID-19 Headlines

March 17, 2020

■ NEW MASKING POLICY:

Due to the increase in community spread, starting today, we recommend that **all staff who provide direct patient care wear a mask.** Any masks that become wet or soiled should be replaced, but we also ask that everyone does their best not to be wasteful and to preserve resources as much as possible.

■ NEW VISITATION POLICY:

We are **prohibiting all visitors** across the Mount Sinai Health System. This includes **visitors to the emergency departments, inpatient units, ambulatory sites, and other facilities.** There will, however, be a few important exceptions, which apply only to healthy visitors. Those include:

- *Pediatrics/NICU:* **One** healthy visitor allowed.
- *Maternity and Postpartum:* **One** healthy partner allowed.
- *End of Life/Palliative Care:* **One** healthy visitor allowed.
- *Ambulatory Geriatrics:* **One** healthy visitor allowed.
- *Discharge:* **One** healthy visitor allowed to pick up discharged patients.
- *For the Emergency Departments:* For patients requiring assistance, one healthy visitor is allowed. Only **one** visitor per pediatric patient is allowed in the pediatric ED (parent or caregiver only).

We also know there may be unique situations depending on patient need. If you believe an exception to the above policy should be made, please speak to your supervisor. Above all, let's use our common sense and good judgment to do the right thing.

■ NEW GUIDE ON MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT OF YOUR OWN HEALTH:

There is a new guide to the **Employee Testing, Monitoring, and Clearance Process.**

This directs you on what symptoms to look for in yourself, what to do if you do become sick, how to get tested, and when you can return to work if you do get sick. This document and all health system COVID-19 Employee Resources can now be found on our new [website](#).