



ARROWHEAD REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
Emergency Response Policies and Procedures

POLICY NO. 5040.02 Issue 1
Page 1 of 4

SUBJECT: VISITOR LIMITATIONS POLICY

APPROVED BY: _____
Administration

POLICY

Due to the community spread of coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19), considerations must be made for the safety of health facility staff and patients resulting in many health care facilities suspending visitation, except when medically necessary or essential to the care of the patient. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and Arrowhead Regional Medical Center (ARMC) recognizes the importance that visitors play in the mental well-being of patients, including pediatric patients, patients in labor and delivery, and patients at end-of-life. ARMC considers visitors an essential part of patient care and recovery.

PROCEDURES

- I. Arrowhead Regional Medical Center has adopted CDPH's recommended visitor guidelines for certain patients to ensure support for their mental health and well-being, while striving to limit the spread of the virus. All visitors listed in Sections A, B and C below will be allowed one visitor per day (24 hours). If patients prefer more than one visitor, the visitors may rotate on a daily basis.
 - A. **Pediatric Patients**
 1. Visitors are essential for the mental health of pediatric patients. CDPH recommends that pediatric patients be allowed one support person per day.
 2. In the case of prolonged hospitalization, CDPH recommends two designated support persons for pediatric patients, provided that only one visitor is present at a time.
 - B. **Labor and Delivery Patients**
 1. The presence of a partner or support person is essential to the mental health of patients who are in labor and delivery. CDPH recommends that one support person be allowed to be present with the patient. This allowance will be per day.
 - C. **Patients at End-of-Life**
 1. Visitors are essential to the mental health of patients who are at end-of-life. For their continued mental health, and well-being, the department recommends that one visitor be allowed to be present with the patient per day.
- II. All support persons must stay in the room, be asymptomatic for COVID-19, and not be a suspected or recently confirmed case. Support persons may be screened prior to entering the clinical areas. Support persons must comply with any health facility instructions on personal protective equipment.

- III. Additionally, CDPH strongly encourages facilities, including but not limited to skilled nursing facility (SNF), to create ways for residents and patients to have frequent video and phone call visits. If shared devices are used for video calls, facilities should ensure appropriate infection control measures are in place. Daily visitors in the aforementioned criteria are encouraged to facilitate video calls with other “virtual visitors” to ensure patients can visit with any amount of persons of their choosing.

REFERENCES: CDPH All Facilities Letters

DEFINITIONS: N/A

ATTACHMENTS: CDPH AFL 20-38, Visitor Limitations Guidance

APPROVAL DATE:	<u>N/A</u>	<u>Policy, Procedure and Standards Committee</u>
	<u>04/16/20</u>	<u>Hospital Incident Command System (HICS)</u> Applicable Administrator, Hospital or Medical Committee
		<u>Board of Supervisors</u> Approved by the Governing Body

REPLACES: N/A

EFFECTIVE: 04/16/20 **REVISED:** N/A

REVIEWED: N/A



State of California—Health and Human
Services Agency
**California Department of
Public Health**



April 10, 2020

AFL 20-38

TO: All Facilities**SUBJECT:** Visitor Limitations Guidance**All Facilities Letter (AFL) Summary**

This AFL notifies all facilities of new visitor limitation guidelines for pediatric patients, patients in labor and delivery, and patients at end-of-life.

Due to the community spread of coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19), considerations must be made for the safety of health facility staff and patients resulting in many health care facilities suspending visitation, except when medically necessary or essential to the care of the patient. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) recognizes the importance that visitors play in the mental well-being of patients, including pediatric patients, patients in labor and delivery, and patients at end-of-life. CDPH considers visitors an essential part of patient care and recovery.

CDPH has developed recommended visitor guidelines for certain patients to ensure support for their mental health and well-being, while striving to limit the spread of the virus.

Pediatric Patients

- Visitors are essential for the mental health of pediatric patients. CDPH recommends that pediatric patients be allowed one support person.
- In the case of prolonged hospitalization, CDPH recommends two designated support persons for pediatric patients, provided that only one visitor is present at a time.

Labor and Delivery Patients

- The presence of a partner or support person is essential to the mental health of patients who are in labor and delivery. CDPH recommends that one support person be allowed to be present with the patient.

Patients at End-of-Life

- Visitors are essential to the mental health of patients who are at end-of-life. For their continued mental health, and well-being, the department recommends that one visitor be allowed to be present with the patient.

All support persons must stay in the room and be asymptomatic for COVID-19 and not be a suspected or recently confirmed case. Support persons may be screened prior to entering the clinical areas. Support persons must comply with any health facility instructions on personal protective equipment.

Additionally, CDPH strongly encourages facilities, including but not limited to skilled nursing facility (SNF), to create ways for residents and patients to have frequent video and phone call visits. If shared devices are used for video calls facilities should ensure appropriate infection control measures are in place.

Sincerely,

Original signed by Heidi W. Steinecker

Heidi W. Steinecker

Deputy Director

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