



To Our Patients, Visitors, Staff, and Community,

Cary Medical Center is making some small revisions to our Visitor Policy. You may note that the policy is still relatively restrictive compared to our policy prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. We understand that people's concerns related to COVID-19 cover a wide range from not concerned at all, to not leaving the house for any reason. We know that some of you may think this is too much and not fair in the face of everything reopening. On the other hand, some of you may wonder why we are allowing any visitors at all.

People on all sides of these issues are likely to need, at some point, to receive healthcare. It is not an optional service for most of these people. Many patients accessing our services are in high risk groups related to COVID-19. Our staff must, as part of their job, interact with all patients regardless of why they present to the hospital and thus are exposed to a wide cross-section of the population.

As a community hospital and healthcare provider, we feel it is our job to keep all of you as safe as we can given what information we currently have about COVID-19, and more importantly what information we don't yet know about COVID-19. At the current time little has changed since we went into quarantine in March as it relates to knowledge about this disease. In particular, we do not know who will become very ill and even possibly die from COVID-19, we do not know why or who will become an asymptomatic carrier of the disease, we do not have effective treatments and there is no vaccine available as yet (though many are in development).

Therefore, at this time, the best treatment is to try and avoid becoming infected with COVID-19 in the first place. Because we do know that close personal contact is the most common way to become infected we will continue to maintain our requirements for: source control masking for patients, visitors, vendors, employees, and anyone else that enters our building; maintaining physical distance of six feet between people whenever possible; and to limit the total number of people in our facility at any given time with our visitor policy.

We understand that these policies may be difficult and present challenges for some of you. Like each of you we wish things were different. But, because of our vulnerable populations, the need to keep you all as safe as possible under the circumstances, and the need to keep our staff healthy and safe we respectfully ask that no matter how you feel about our policies, or how you choose to conduct yourself elsewhere in the community, that you follow our policies while here at Cary Medical Center.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and help.


Kris Doody, RN, MSB
CEO


Regen Gallagher, DO, MBA
CMO

To our Patients, their Families and Friends, and Community:

Cary Medical Center is committed to being here to care for you, but in order to continue to do so safely during this time we have to make some changes to our usual visitation policy. We appreciate your understanding.

Visitors that are sick with respiratory tract symptoms such as cough, sore throat, fever, shortness of breath or other respiratory symptoms are asked to not visit the hospital. If you appear to be sick, our staff will kindly ask you to leave the hospital.

All patients and visitors will be asked to mask on entry and remain masked while in the hospital. Exceptions to this policy cannot be made, if you decline to wear your mask, we will need to ask you to leave.

CURRENT VISITATION POLICY (effective 6.1.2020)

All inpatient units:

- 1) Each patient may designate **TWO people** that can visit throughout the course of the patient's stay with us. Only ONE of those visitors may visit at any give time in order to maintain proper physical distancing in patient rooms. We ask that all other people visit by technology only.
- 2) No visitors under the **age of 16**.
- 3) No one who is sick, even if you only have a sniffle, may be a designated visitor.

In the ER:

- 1) One visitor per patient, but only after staff have triaged the patient and cleared them for visitation. People accompanying patients to the ED will be asked to wait in their vehicle or leave a number where they can be reached until such time as they can be allowed in.
- 2) No one who is sick, even if you only have a sniffle, may be a visitor.

In outpatient areas:

- 1) Please **reschedule your visit or testing if you are sick**, even if it is only a sniffle, unless your doctor thinks it is important that you have your test immediately.
- 2) Please **do not bring others with you**, regardless of their age, to outpatient testing appointments, labs, radiology, or other similar visits.
 - a. Exception for those with physical handicaps that require assistance to move through the facility, you may have one person with you for that purpose
 - b. Exception for a minor child or an adult that does not have the capacity to make their own decisions that is a patient, they may have one parent or guardian with them.
 - c. Exception for one person to accompany a patient for obstetric ultrasounds.

Exceptions:

- 1) Exceptions to the visitor policy will be made for end-of-life care situations.
- 2) No person's under investigation (PUI's) or patients with COVID-19 may have any visitors with an exception for one parent of a minor child, who will also be treated as a PUI.

The health of our patients and staff is our top priority. We realize that these restrictions may cause challenges, and we are sorry for any inconvenience or difficulties they may cause.

For all units please wash your hands before entering the room and before leaving the facility.

Thank you for your understanding and your attention to these changes.
We are committed to only keeping these changes in place for as long as absolutely necessary.



Creating Healthier Communities