The University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) is committed to keeping our patients, staff, students and visitors safe as we respond to the spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). As part of our commitment, we are taking proactive measures to help prevent the introduction and spread of COVID-19 at all of our Jackson-based hospitals (Wiser, Batson, University and Conerly).

UMMC Grenada and UMMC Holmes County hospitals will operate under a separate revised visitor policy.

Based on the increasing incidence of COVID-19, effective noon on Monday, March 16, and until further notice, UMMC will implement a revised visitor policy for all hospital facilities as follows:

- Adult patients are not permitted to have visitors except in certain circumstances outlined below.
- Pediatric patients (Children’s of Mississippi) are permitted to have only two adult visitors, but both must be parents, guardians or caregivers.

The exceptions to this revised visitor policy include:

- Obstetric patients may be accompanied by one partner and one birth support person.
- Adult patients who have been determined by the care team to be at the “end-of-life” may be visited by members of the immediate family.
- Adult patients with disruptive behavior, for whom a family member is essential to their care, may have one visitor.
- Adult patients who have altered mental status or developmental delays (where a caregiver is necessary to assist) may have one visitor.
- Adult patients undergoing surgery or procedures may have one visitor before and during the procedure for both inpatient and outpatient procedures. For inpatients, the visitor must leave the hospital as soon as possible after the procedure has been completed and the patient is in a room.
- Adult patients who have an appointment at a UMMC hospital-based clinic or procedural unit, as well as those visiting the adult Emergency Department, may be accompanied by one visitor. The visitor must stay in the clinic or procedural area during their time in the hospital facility.
- Visitors are not permitted in adult isolation rooms under any circumstances.
- Every effort will be made to grant requests from a patient or family member for a visit from a chaplain, chaplain intern, Eucharistic minister, community clergy or other spiritual advisor.

Other exceptions not listed above will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

All patients and visitors needing to enter a hospital facility, including for an appointment at hospital-based clinic or procedural unit, will enter through one of two available entrances:
University of Mississippi Medical Center
Temporary Revised Visitation Policy
March 14, 2020

- The front entrance of University Hospital (under the overhang facing State Street near Garage A)
- The side entrance to Wiser Hospital for Women and Children (under the overhang facing Garage B)

All patients and visitors will be screened at the two entrances listed above. Patients who exhibit symptoms associated with respiratory illness (fever, runny nose, cough, shortness of breath) or report they have recently visited an area identified as a location experiencing a COVID-19 outbreak will receive further evaluation to determine next steps. Visitors that meet any of that criteria will not be allowed to enter under any circumstances.

Visitors allowed entrance according to the revised policy or under one of the above listed exceptions must stay in the patients' room or associated waiting room during the entirety of their visit until ready to leave the facility. Exceptions to this should be requested from and granted by the unit’s nursing staff.

Approved visitors who leave the hospital outside of the revised visiting hours will not be able to re-enter the hospital until the following day. The revised visiting hours are 5:15 a.m.-7 p.m. for adult hospitals (excluding Wiser) and 5:15 a.m.-9 p.m. for Batson and Wiser hospitals.

We encourage our patient families to consider remote visits using telephone or video chat.

In addition to visitation restrictions, frequent handwashing is always encouraged to protect our patients, employees, students and visitors from the spread of germs and viruses. The safety of our patients and personnel is always our top priority, and we will continue to do all we can to ensure a safe environment to give and receive care.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work through this period of uncertainty together.