University of Mississippi Medical Center Temporary Visitor Restrictions March 16, 2020 (1:13 p.m.)

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). We are taking measures to prevent the spread of this novel coronavirus at our Jackson-based hospitals (Wiser, Batson, University and Conerly).

Effective noon on Monday, March 16 and until further notice, the visitor policy for all UMMC hospitals is as follows:

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

Exceptions include:

- Obstetric patients may be accompanied by one partner and one birth support person.
- Adult patients 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 with 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 patient returns to the room.
- Adult patients with an appointment at a UMMC hospital-based clinic or procedural unit, or visiting the adult Emergency Department, may be accompanied by one visitor who remains in the clinic or procedural area.
- Visitors are not permitted in adult isolation rooms under any circumstances.
- Efforts are made to grant requests from a patient or family member for visits from a chaplain, chaplain intern, Eucharistic minister, community clergy or other spiritual advisor.
- Other exceptions are evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Patients and visitors entering a hospital facility, including for an appointment at hospital-based clinic or procedural unit, enter and are screened through one of two available entrances:

- 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)

Visitors meeting any of the criteria below are not allowed to enter under any circumstances:

- Fever, cough or shortness of breath
- Recent travel out of state (within 14 days)
- Contact with an individual with a positive COVID-19 test or awaiting COVID-19 test results.

Visitors allowed entrance must stay in the patient’s room or associated waiting room during the entirety of their visit. The designated visitors remain the only authorized visitors throughout the patient stay.

Approved visitors leaving the hospital outside of the revised visiting hours are not able to re-enter the hospital until the following day. The revised visiting hours are 5:15 a.m.-7 p.m.

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

Frequent handwashing is required to protect our patients, employees, students and visitors from the spread of germs and viruses. Thank you for your patience and understanding during this period of uncertainty.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we take steps to limit exposure and spread of COVID-19.