

COVID-19

CORONAVIRUS
DISEASE

Tower Health Visitation Restrictions – Updated July 27, 2020

Tower Health is committed to providing visitation guidelines that protect the safety of our patients, staff, and community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

INPATIENT VISITATION

In adult inpatient units:

- One visitor per patient during regular visiting hours on inpatient hospital units.
- Two visitors for end-of-life patients.
- Two visitors for COVID-19 positive patients at the end-of-life.
- Visitors for COVID-19 positive patients who are not end-of-life, ARE permitted only by exception based on clinical judgment.
- Patients with disabilities (including those who are suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19) may have one designated support person or guardian stay with them during hospital visiting hours, and one visitor may remain overnight if the hospital can accommodate them.

In NICU, inpatient pediatric units, pediatric emergency departments, and pediatric physician practices:

- Parents and guardians of pediatric and NICU patients are permitted.
- Identified times for NICU visitation may be implemented, and the number of parents visiting NICU at same time may be limited based on the number of patients and capacity to assure social distancing and protection of patients, staff, and visitors.

In maternity units:

- One designated support person is permitted.
- Doulas are considered part of the care team and are permitted.

In emergency departments and psychiatric emergency departments:

- One designated support person is permitted, with the exception of pediatric patients under the age of 18, in which case both parents or both guardians may be permitted.

At Reading Hospital Rehabilitation at Wyomissing:

- No visitors, except medically necessary visitors, will be permitted.
- No children under the age of 18 or pets will be permitted.

Religious Services: Patients who are not suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 may receive religious services from clergy of their choice at any reasonable time if it can be provided without disruption to care.

AMBULATORY CARE SETTING VISITATION

In surgical and outpatient procedure departments:

- One support person may accompany patient for outpatient and same-day surgery or procedure.
- Guidelines for waiting, notification post procedure, and discharge are specific to each hospital and department and will be communicated to the patient during pre-op/pre-procedure education. If patient is to be admitted after surgery, the support person will be permitted to visit for short period while patient is in recovery.

In physician practices, urgent care practices, and ambulatory surgery locations:

- One designated support person is permitted.
- No switching of support persons is permitted during the visit.
- Support persons must remain in the waiting area unless:
 - the patient is a minor (under 18),
 - the patient has a disability, or
 - the visitor is the patient's communicator and in specific cases of interpreter need.

All approved visitors will be screened in accordance with guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH). Screening will occur at all location entry points.

Your health, safety, and comfort are our top priorities. These restrictions will be continuously evaluated as the COVID-19 situation evolves and are subject to change based on guidance from the CDC and PA DOH.

The patient's care team will decide on a case-by-case basis whether the visitor is clinically appropriate, including when the visitor is a family member supporting the patient by providing care. In the event there is a conflict about whether a visitor may enter, clinical judgment will prevail.

In an abundance of caution, we will also take the following precautionary measures:

- All activities that invite community members to any Tower Health facility for events or educational programs will be cancelled until further notice.
- Volunteer services will be restricted to only those that are clinically required.
- Permitted vendors will be restricted to only the clinically necessary, including those working on active projects, repairs, technology, or equipment.
- Delivery of food, flowers, or other items from outside sources will be restricted.



TOWER HEALTH

Advancing Health. Transforming Lives.