

COVID-19 Bulletin

 Southcoast Health

Exclusively for the employees
of Southcoast Health

Good afternoon, Southcoast colleagues.

UPDATE: Minor children – and young adults – as visitors of an admitted or observation patient

Earlier this week, we sent a COVID-19 Bulletin that spoke to the issue of minor children who present (with a parent or other adult) to visit an acute care patient.

As we stated in the bulletin, minor children are allowed to visit an acute care patient **only** if there are visitor exceptions in place, such as the patient receiving end-of-life care.

We heard back from many employees looking for clarity around the definition of a minor child. **Per our existing visitation policy, a minor child is defined as under 12 years of age.**

This definition raises a question about a person who is between the ages of 12 and 17.

Because we will not allow a person between the ages of 12 and 17 to visit an acute care patient alone *and* we are currently allowing only 1 visitor at a time, **this issue has required us to make a change to the existing restrictions** such that a person between the ages of 12 and 17 would be permitted to visit an acute care patient if accompanied by an adult.

While the maximum visitation duration remains as 1 hour, the care team can use their discretion as necessary, depending on the clinical situation, to limit

the maximum visitation to 30 minutes given that 2 visitors would now be present at the same time.

For the health and safety of all

While the total numbers of COVID-19-positive patients presenting to our facilities remains very low, it is critical that we remain vigilant with monitoring the health of our employees and medical staff.

While we continue to provide and improve upon our health screening processes at facility entrances, it does not provide us with information about our employees and medical staff who are not presenting because they may be staying home with COVID-like symptoms and/or have recently tested positive for COVID-19.

Please remember the following applies to all health care workers:

- **If you are having symptoms, you need to be tested.**
- **If you test positive for COVID-19, the Southcoast Health Infection Prevention team needs to know.**

We are required to consider/conduct a tracer to determine if any COVID-19-positive health care worker has come into contact with their colleagues and/or patients.

As such, if you call out sick for any shift, the person you speak with will ask you if your absence is due to COVID-19-like symptoms. If you answer yes, you will be reminded to get tested ASAP and may be directed to call the Southcoast COVID-19 Scheduling Line at 508-973-2035.

Please know that Employee Health and our COVID-19 Results team will notify Infection Prevention if a test performed at Southcoast Health results as positive.

If you are tested outside of Southcoast Health and receive a positive result, the expectation is that you will notify Infection Prevention at 508-973-5497 or utilize the Page Operator (or SmartWeb) to page the Infection Prevention person on call.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Status report: COVID-19 cases

The COVID-19 dashboard is available [here](#).

Southcoast's dashboards of COVID-19 data, generated by the Southcoast Analytics Team, are updated daily and are [available on our intranet](#).

For the latest updates, guidance on PPE, video messages, employee assistance and more, please [visit the Southcoast intranet](#).

Questions? Please email them to faq@southcoast.org.

Thank you, and be well.