

COVID-19 Bulletin

 Southcoast Health

Exclusively for the employees
of Southcoast Health

December 3, 2021

Greetings, Southcoast Colleagues.

In this Bulletin, you will find the following:

- **Get your COVID-19 vaccine booster dose at a Southcoast employee walk-in clinic!**
- **Updated hospital visitor hours and policy, effective Dec. 6**
- **Employee COVID exposure, testing and return to work**
- **From the CDC: Steps everyone can take to make gatherings safer**
- **STATUS REPORT: COVID-19 cases**

Please scroll through the entire Bulletin for these updates, and be sure to visit Southcoast's [COVID-19 Employee Hub](#).

Thank you.

Get your COVID-19 vaccine booster dose at a Southcoast employee walk-in clinic!

The December schedule for our employee COVID-19 vaccine clinics are posted on the intranet [here](#). Our pediatric vaccine clinic schedule is also listed.

Select a date/time convenient for you and simply walk in. No appointment needed. In addition to our usual Vanity Fair clinics, two special clinic days have been added: **Rosebrook on 12/9 (2pm-4pm)** and **Truesdale on 12/14 (7am-9am)**. Please complete the consent via the link below in advance of arriving: <https://scapps-internal.southcoast.org/CovidForm>.

All vaccine types are available (Pfizer, Moderna, J&J).

Updated hospital visitor hours and policy, effective Dec. 6

Hospital visiting hours are 11am – 2pm and 5pm – 8pm

For the health and safety of all patients, staff and visitors, beginning on December 6, 2021 a temporarily revised visitation policy will be implemented requiring all visitors to show one of the following:

- Proof of vaccination against COVID-19 upon entry for each visit
- A negative COVID-19 PCR test taken 24 hours prior to entry if unvaccinated.

One visitor per patient will be allowed in at a time with a maximum of three visitors each day. This policy recognizes the importance family and friends play in a patient's healing process while promoting and maintaining a safe environment for everyone.

We greatly appreciate our patients, their families and our community for adhering to these updated policies as, together, we continue to navigate the challenges of COVID-19.

Screening and Masking

All visitors must be masked and will be screened upon entry. Individuals with respiratory illness symptoms will not be allowed to visit the hospital unless they are receiving treatment.

Visitation Policy

Southcoast Hospitals are patient-focused environments. We understand that visitors provide our patients with support and comfort during their stay, playing an important role in the healing process.

For the protection of Southcoast Health's patients, providers, employees and visitors, please view and adhere to the following policy:

Visitation Policy

As of 12/06/21

For the protection and wellbeing of Southcoast Health's patients, employees, and providers, please adhere to the following:

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT:

Visitors allowed at discretion of the care team. Exceptions will be made for guardians, essential companions and other circumstances.

HOSPITAL VISITING HOURS: 11am – 2pm and 5pm – 8pm

INPATIENT VISITOR POLICY:

- ONE visitor allowed at a time*
- Maximum of three visitors per patient each day*

All visitors must be able to do one of the following:

- Show proof of COVID-19 vaccine or
- Provide a negative COVID-19 PCR test, provided by a laboratory taken no more than 24 hours prior to visit

If visitor is between the ages of 5-17, two visitors are allowed to ensure that the minor is accompanied by an adult (proof of vaccine or negative COVID-19 laboratory test required for both visitors)

MATERNITY VISITING HOURS: 11am – 2pm and 5pm – 8pm

MATERNITY VISITOR POLICY*

- Birth partners, are strongly encouraged to be vaccinated. If not vaccinated, they must be tested for COVID-19 when they arrive on the unit
- No visitors under 5, including siblings, are allowed to visit post-partum patients
- No visitors under the age of 12 are allowed on pediatric unit (vaccinated or unvaccinated)

*EXCEPTIONS:

- *End of Life and/or patient on Comfort Measures Only*
- *Parents of infant and pediatric patients*
- *Designated support person for patients with disabilities*
- *Allowed by clinical teams for unique circumstances*

Visitor must remain with patient; NO visitor re-entry after exit; maximum of three different visitors per day**

**At the discretion of the clinical team

Surgical Patients and Same Day Surgery Center

ONE visitor will be allowed to visit and/or accompany a patient

Physician Offices, Imaging, Radiology, Laboratory Patient Service Center

ONE visitor will be allowed to visit and/or accompany a patient

NO visitors experiencing cough, shortness of breath, temperature over 100 degrees or other symptoms consistent with COVID-19 will be allowed

We appreciate your cooperation.

 Southcoast Health

www.southcoast.org/southcoast-health-updated-visitation-policy.

Employee COVID exposure, testing and return to work

Employees who need to have a COVID-19 test, due to exposure or symptoms, should utilize MyChart to self-schedule their test:

- Within MyChart we have designated timeslots (11:30-12noon) at the testing trailers specifically for Southcoast employees.
- As soon as your results are available, you will receive an email notification from MyChart, and can easily access your results.

Employees who do not have a MyChart account are strongly encouraged to set up an account (<https://mychart.southcoast.org/mychart/signup>).

- If unable to do so, please call the COVID-19 Employee Hotline at (508) 973-4968 for nurse triage and test scheduling.
- The hotline is available Monday through Saturday, 8am-5pm.
- The COVID-19 Results line will call you if your result is positive only.
 - Do not call the COVID-19 Results line, they will call you if positive.

Outside Tests: *If you receive a positive result from a test outside of Southcoast Health, you have an obligation to notify Infection Prevention.* During regular business hours, please call Infection Prevention at 508-973-5497. During off hours, send a confidential email to infectionprevention@southcoast.org.

Southcoast testing turnaround time

Current turnaround time for test results is less than 20 hours.

In **rare circumstances** you could request an expedited result. If you believe your situation requires an expedited test result (less than 24 hours), this **request must be approved by the Incident Command Center (ICC)**. The ICC number is (508) 973-5801 and is staffed during normal business hours. After hours, you would need to page the Administrator on Call for approval. Please note, laboratory and employee hotlines are not able to expedite test results.

Working while waiting for test results

- If you are asymptomatic, and require testing due to exposure, you should wear proper PPE and you may continue to work while awaiting test results.
 - [Southcoast Guidance for Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) Use and Optimization](#) – Updated 12/02/2021
- If you are symptomatic, you are **not** permitted to work until you are symptom free for 24 hours and have a negative test result – EVEN if you are fully vaccinated.

When can I return to work?

You **CANNOT** come to work if you have **symptoms** associated with COVID-19. You must stay home, self-isolate while waiting for test results, wear a mask and distance yourself from household members, and notify your manager.

You can return to work only after you are fever-free for at least 24 hours, your symptoms have improved, 10 days have elapsed since symptom onset (or first positive test) AND you receive clearance from Employee Health. You may end self-isolation on day 11.

When you are ready to return to work, you must complete the online Return to Work Form at: www.southcoast.org/covidreturn. If you have any problems with this form working correctly, contact the Help Desk.

For complete details on exposure, testing, and return to work, refer to [FAQ: Exposure, testing and return to work \(RTW\) for healthcare workers \(updated 12/3/21\)](#).

Refer also to [Return to Work Decision Algorithm for Asymptomatic Employees \(updated 09/22/21\)](#).

From the CDC: Steps everyone can take to make gatherings safer

If you will be attending holiday and other social gatherings this season, the CDC offers recently updated guidance on how to protect yourself and others and keep safe at small and large gatherings.

Information is available on the CDC website [here](#).

STATUS REPORT: COVID-19 cases

Currently, we have 80 patients who have tested positive for COVID-19 hospitalized across our system – with 4 positive cases in ICU. In addition, we currently have 18 PUI currently hospitalized across our system – with no PUI in ICU.

COVID-19 daily dashboards, generated by the Southcoast Analytics Team, are available [here](#).

Thank you, and be well.