

# COVID-19 Bulletin

 Southcoast Health

Exclusively for the employees  
of Southcoast Health

*January 11, 2022*

*Greetings, Southcoast Colleagues.*

In this Bulletin, you will find the following:

- **UPDATED Hospital Visitation Policy: No visitors permitted, effective Weds. January 12**
- **UPDATED Outpatient Visitation Policy, one visitor permitted (when necessary), effective Weds. January 12**
- **Submitting vaccine card specifying booster shot**
- **REMINDER: Updated Information on COVID-19 Hub**
- **REMINDER: COVID-19 CBL deadline Jan. 15**
- **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.*

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**UPDATED Visitation Policy: No visitors permitted, effective Weds. January 12**

Because of the increase in COVID cases in our hospitals, and for the health and safety of all patients, staff, and visitors, visitors will not be permitted in our

emergency departments and inpatient units (with some exceptions) until further notice. **This temporary revised policy is effective Wednesday, January 12.**

Please view and adhere to the following:

# Visitation Policy

**As of 1/12/22**

Due to the rapidly rising number of COVID-19 cases in the community and for the safety of our patients and healthcare workers Southcoast Health hospital patient visitation has been temporarily suspended.

**HOSPITAL AND EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT:  
NO VISITORS** \*Exceptions below

**\*EXCEPTIONS:**

**Adult Inpatient Units and Emergency Departments**

- End of Life or patient on Comfort Measure Only
- Legal Guardian or Required Health Care Proxy
- At the discretion of the care team, **one** support person may be allowed to visit:  
*A support person is defined as someone that is essential for the support of a patient who has a cognitive disability, including patients who have altered mental status, communications barriers, intellectual and/ or developmental disabilities.*

**Family Centered Unit**

- One Birth Partner (*Received wristband from FCU*)
- Parents of a Minor Child (*Received wristband from FCU*)
- No visitors under the age of 5, including siblings on Post-Partum
- No visitors under the age of 12 are allowed on Pediatrics

**Surgical Patients**

- Ambulatory Surgery or Post Anesthesia Care Unit at the discretion of the care team

**All Approved Visitors must be able to do one of the following:**

- Show proof of COVID-19 vaccination or
- Provide a negative COVID-19 PCR Test result, obtained from a laboratory with result provided within 24 hours of visit


**All Approved Visitors**

- Must remain in the patient room unless entering/exiting the building or using a rest room
- Are required to **remain masked** for the duration of the visit

**Visitation will not be allowed for patients with COVID-19 unless "visitor" is there as a birth partner, or present for patients at end of life care or on comfort measures only**

- On FCU, Birth Partner (if fully vaccinated) can be on site for birth of baby, and visit after the birth with negative screening for symptoms and a negative COVID test.
- On FCU, Birth Partner (if unvaccinated) has to quarantine for 5 days beyond mother's isolation period. Birth Partner may attend birth if negative test result, but would need to leave 1 hour after the birth due to not being vaccinated.

We appreciate your cooperation.



[Visiting Hours & Visitor Policies Southcoast Health](#) are updated on Southcoast.org as changes are made.

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### **UPDATED Outpatient Visitation Policy, effective Weds. January 12**

- One visitor per patient, when necessary. Exception for newborn visits.
  - No visitors with COVID symptoms: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea.
  - No visitors who have returned from international or cruise travel without a negative test per CDC recommendations:
    - + Fully vaccinated individuals should be tested within 3 – 5 days after travel.
    - + In addition, for individuals not fully vaccinated, an additional recommendation is to self-quarantine for a full 5 days after travel.
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### **Submitting vaccine card specifying booster shot**

If you have received a COVID-19 booster OUTSIDE of a Southcoast vaccine clinic, please send a copy of your vaccine card or other type of vaccination proof to [vaccineverification@southcoast.org](mailto:vaccineverification@southcoast.org).

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### **REMINDER: Recently posted information on COVID-19 Hub**

As a reminder, if you have not read it yet, the [January 6 COVID-19 Bulletin](#) clarified and simplified the Return to Work (RTW) algorithm to address questions about exposure, clearance to work and COVID testing.

To coincide with the Bulletin, the following documents have been updated and are posted on the COVID-19 Hub.

- [Return to Work Decision Algorithm for Asymptomatic Employees 1/11/22](#)
- [Return to Work Decision Algorithm for Symptomatic Employees 1/6/22](#)

- [FAQ – Exposure, testing and return to work \(RTW\) for healthcare workers – Updated 01/11/2022](#)
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**REMINDER: COVID-19 Update CBL must be completed by all employees and medical staff by Jan. 15**

As a reminder, all Southcoast employees and medical staff are required to complete the **COVID-19 Update: Infection Prevention CBL on LEARNMore by January 15, 2022**. The CBL is a review of current COVID-19 information with links to current policies and recommendations.

You can access LEARNMore via the link below or through the intranet.

[COVID-19 Update: Infection Prevention CBL via LEARNMore](#)

Please call Infection Prevention x35497 or the Command Center x35801 with any questions.

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**STATUS REPORT: COVID-19 cases**

As of this evening, we have 160 patients who have tested positive for COVID-19 hospitalized across our system – with 19 positive cases in ICU. In addition, we have 30 PUI hospitalized across our system – with no PUI in ICU.

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

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*Thank you, and be well.*