

COVID-19 Bulletin

 Southcoast Health

Exclusively for the employees
of Southcoast Health

January 27, 2022

Greetings, Southcoast Colleagues.

In this Bulletin, you will find the following:

- **UPDATED: Hospital visitation policy for approved visitors**
- **IMPORTANT REMINDER: Self-reporting of COVID-19 symptoms is required of all providers and staff via our electronic attestation process**
- **STATUS REPORT: COVID-19 cases**

Please be sure to visit Southcoast's [COVID-19 Employee Hub](#) other recent updates.

Thank you.

UPDATED: Hospital visitation policy for approved visitors

When exceptions are made to Southcoast's no-visitation policy (for end of life and patients on comfort measures only, legal guardian and required health care proxy, and clinically-required patient support), the **approved visitor WILL NOT be required to show proof of vaccination or negative COVID-19 test.**

The approved visitor, however, will need to be screened for COVID-19 before being allowed to visit or accompany a patient. If the patient is COVID-19 positive and/or the approved visitor screens as positive (or potentially positive) for COVID-19, additional infection control measures may

be required. In these situations, please contact the Unit Manager or Nursing Supervisor for further instruction.

As a reminder, all approved visitors:

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

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Self-reporting of COVID-19 symptoms is required of all providers and staff via our electronic attestation process

Per CDC and State of Massachusetts regulations, all healthcare settings must remain consistent with recommended routine infection prevention and control (IPC) practices during the COVID-19 pandemic. **One definite part of the IPC is the requirement that all healthcare settings establish and maintain processes to identify anyone entering our facilities, regardless of vaccination status, who may have symptoms of COVID-19.** Options include individual screenings on arrival to healthcare facilities or implementation of an electronic monitoring system in which individuals can self-report symptom status.

For our medical staff and our employees, we implemented **three electronic methods for self-reporting (i.e., attestation)** to try and make this as easy as possible for everyone: **texting and online screening upon log-in from a workstation for providers and exempt staff**, and Kronos attestations for hourly staff who utilize time clocks.

Unfortunately, for providers and exempt staff who do not utilize Kronos time clocks, our daily current compliance rate with self-reporting is only 15-20%. Please know that our screening program and your participation are not optional. Our organization must comply with the required screenings, and we need everyone to appreciate this requirement. We need your immediate help in order for Southcoast to be, and remain, compliant until the requirement has been lifted. Thank you for your attention to this critical requirement.

STATUS REPORT: COVID-19 cases

As of this morning, across our system we have 120 patients who have tested positive for COVID-19 hospitalized across our system – with 15 positive cases in ICU. **This is about a 25% drop in daily cases from a recent high of over 160 daily cases.** In addition, we have 6 PUI hospitalized system – with 1 PUI in ICU.

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

Thank you, and be well.