

Meritus Medical Center Visitation Guidelines

We are pleased to welcome visitors back to Meritus Medical Center. Our focus continues to be on the safety of our patients, staff and community. We request that only close family or loved ones visit at this time. Please see the additional guidelines below:

- Please call your loved one's nurse to determine if it is safe for you to begin visitation.
- All visitors must be 18 years of age or older unless the visitor is the parent of a pediatric patient.
- Facemasks must be worn at all times when in the building.
- Visitors must enter through the Meritus Medical Center front lobby to be screened for flu-like symptoms, such as fever, cough or shortness of breath and will not be able to visit the patient if symptomatic or if exposed to a person who has tested positive for COVID-19.
 - **For Adult Inpatients, Obstetrics and Emergency Room Patients:** One visitor is allowed with the patient and in the hospital at a time.
 - Exception: End of life care patients may have two visitors
 - **Pediatric Inpatients:** One or two designated caregivers will be allowed for the duration of the hospital stay.

NOTE: Swapping of visitors is allowed, but must take place in the parking lot and everyone will be screened for flu-like symptoms upon entry to the hospital.
- **Visiting Hours are 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. and 5 - 9 p.m.**
 - There will be an overhead announcement 15 minutes prior to the end of visitation hours and we ask that you please use this time to pack up any belongings and say goodbye to your loved ones.
 - Staff will kindly remind visitors of departure time if you have not already excused yourself
 - Exceptions:
 - Patients with a disability who require bedside care from a caregiver due to the specifics of their disability.
 - Patients undergoing emergency surgery related to a traumatic event.
 - Pediatric patients
- **Please stay in the patient's room as much as possible during your visit**
 - Walking through the halls, standing outside of the patient's room, standing at the nurse's station, are not allowed.
 - If you have questions or concerns for the nursing staff, please utilize the call bell system in the patient's room and we will be more than happy to come in and assist you.
- **Patient personal belonging brought into Meritus Medical Center should be kept to a minimum.**
- **If your loved one is diagnosed with COVID-19 or is currently being investigated for a COVID Infection, no visitors will be permitted unless special exception is granted.**
- **No visitors are currently allowed in our Inpatient Behavioral Health unit.**
- **At this time, no visitors are allowed for outpatient services including Same Day Services, IV Infusion, Wound, John R. Marsh Cancer Center, etc.**
- **Other restrictions may apply based on patient diagnosis and status. Staff will follow additional guidelines in the Visitation Policy to keep you, your loved one and our staff safe. For questions or concerns, please contact the Patient Advocate's office at 301-790-8499 or 301-790-8662.**

We thank you for your cooperation in advance—we are doing our best to allow everyone to visit with their loved ones while also keeping everyone safe during these unprecedented times.

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