

COVID-19 Guidelines for Support Person/Caregiver for Inpatients

Our patients, families, and friends are important to us. We support patient and family centered care and welcome those who are important to helping our patients. The current environment has created unexpected and challenging times and we are doing our best to help provide a safe environment for our patients, families, and staff.

One support person/caregiver shall be allowed, supporting the patient's safety, emotional- well-being, and physical care. The person should be **age 16 or above** and follow the following guidelines provided during their stay:

- A patient on isolation is limited to 1 visit per day, except COVID-19 patients
- The designated support person/caregiver will receive daily updates by phone or at bedside

“No Visitors Allowed” is still relevant. **Visitors** are friends, neighbors, colleagues, and pastors who are paying their respects to see the patient while hospitalized. A **Caregiver** is a person such as a close family member who is involved in the patients care and well-being (emotional or physical) and allowed to see the patient unless there is a safety risk (example: COVID positive patient). If this person needs to alternate between 2 people, that is ok.
- All support persons/ caregivers will follow masking guidelines and be screened for temperature at hospital entrance and will follow hospital guidelines if screened positive
- Support person will be asked to stay in the room of the patient and not leave the unit except for basic personal needs (ex: food/restroom); excluding smoking
- During emergency situations on the unit, the nurse may ask the support person/caregiver to exit unit until situation resolves
- No support person/caregiver can wait in hallway of unit
- Patients are not allowed to receive flowers or other gifts during stay in ICU. Allowed in other units
- Due to the sizes of our rooms, we cannot allow additional chairs to be brought into the patient's rooms for sleeping accommodations for support person/caregiver.
- No overnight accommodations are allowed in ICU except in extenuating circumstances.
- There will be no support person/caregiver allowed on unit after 9pm, unless certain extenuating circumstances deem otherwise. This decision is based on patient condition/status and is at the discretion of the Unit Director

**Staff shall reserve the right to restrict support person/caregiver opportunity to enter unit if non-compliance of the above criteria persists. In addition, staff shall be able to adjust guidelines to accommodate for compassionate care and end of life situations. .*



Support Person/Caregiver Guidelines

Our first priority at Athens-Limestone Hospital is always the health and safety of our patients, your families and our staff. We understand that the current environment has created unexpected challenges for you and for us. Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we seek to deliver safe, quality care to you and your loved ones. In order to do so, there are guidelines for your support person/caregiver.

- ***All support persons/caregivers must be 16 years of age and older.***
- ***All support persons/caregivers will be screened for fever/temperature.***
- ***Anyone exhibiting symptoms of illness will not be allowed in our facility.***
- ***All support persons/caregivers must wear a mask or appropriate face covering, must observe social distancing and must sanitize their hands frequently.***

Password protection

Upon admission, the patient will be provide an account number so that communication can take place between the hospital staff and family members. This account number is used for identification during the hospitalization.

Supporting an adult patient

A point of contact (family member or caregiver age 16 and over) and a support plan are established upon admission. The point of contact will be communicated with at least once per shift.

For non COVID-19 patients, one (1) support person is allowed *under the following circumstances*:

Adult surgery patients who stay overnight may have one (1) person after the patient is in their room.

End-of-life care. One to 2 persons are allowed to support the patient during end-of-life care. If supporting a COVID-19 patient, thorough education on risk and Personal Protective Equipment is required.

Supporting a patient in Mother-Baby

- All persons are screened at the front entrance of facility
- For Non Covid-19 patients, one (1) support person is allowed per patient.

Supporting a patient in the Emergency Department

- All persons are screened at the front entrance of the Emergency Department.
- For Non Covid-19 patients, one (1) support person is allowed per patient. A visitor badge will be issued and must be visible for entry into treatment area.

