

Dear Faith Leaders,

Thank you for the spiritual support and care you provide to so many people here in Rhode Island. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak and in order to protect our patients as well as you, Lifespan is implementing new, temporary visitation guidelines as outlined below in an email from Dr. Timothy Babineau, President and Chief Operating Officer for Lifespan.

Blessings, Mike

Rev Michael Mercier, MDiv., BCC
Director of Spiritual Care for Rhode Island Hospital, Hasbro Children's Hospital, Miriam Hospital and Newport Hospital

Dear Colleague:

In light of local cases of COVID-19 and the continued global spread of the disease, we are taking proactive steps to maximize our own efficiency and to minimize traffic and potential exposure in our hospitals, with the goal of best protecting our patients, providers and staff.

While our teams across the system have been working within a modified incident command structure over the past few weeks, as of 8 a.m. this morning, we are ramping up to full incident command center structures across the system to ensure that our preparedness and response efforts are coordinated and aligned.

To minimize potential exposure in our hospitals, effective immediately, patient visitation will be significantly restricted. Visitation policies have been restricted as follows for:

- Adult Inpatients: No visitors will be allowed in adult units at Lifespan hospitals.
- Pediatric Patients: Only one parent or guardian will be allowed to accompany children at Hasbro Children's Hospital and Bradley Hospital.
- Women in Labor: Only the designated birthing partner will be allowed to accompany women in labor at Newport Hospital.
- Emergency Departments: Only one accompanying adult will be allowed to accompany patients arriving at our emergency departments, and that person's duration of stay in patient areas will be minimized.

In limited special circumstances, such as end-of-life care, exceptions may be made at the discretion of medical and/or nursing personnel on our care teams.

We understand the hardship this represents for both patients and families, but after careful evaluation of the evolving risks of transmission, and out of an abundance of caution, we have decided to take this unusual, temporary step to protect our patients, our community and our workforce.

We will be working to ensure communication regarding this policy as patients present for care and service. Visitors who arrive at our hospitals will be greeted by staff positioned at the main entrances to explain this temporary policy.

These are stressful times for everyone, but by supporting each other and working together, we will get through them. As always, thank you for your dedication to our patients and families.

In the steadfast pursuit of excellence, I remain,
Sincerely yours,

Timothy J. Babineau, MD
President and Chief Executive Officer, Lifespan