

Atrium Health Navicent Updates COVID Safe Visitor Restrictions

Health system remains committed to proactively protecting central Georgians from COVID-19 with expanded safe visitation protocols

MACON, Ga., June 7, 2021 – As the number of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) cases decrease in Georgia and following careful review of its policies and local COVID-19 data, Atrium Health Navicent (AHN) has chosen to modify certain portions of its visitation policy. The visitation policy is used to protect patients, visitors and caregivers from the threat of COVID-19. These changes are effective **Tuesday, June 8, 2021** and only visitors described below will be permitted into Atrium Health Navicent facilities.

Visitors include those who are visiting/accompanying the following patients:

- Visitation hours will be held 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily.
- All patients in systemwide inpatient may have two (2) visitors *excluding COVID-19 units. See special considerations.*
- Two (2) visitors are allowed at the bedside at a time.
- The two (2) designated visitors must stay the same per 24 hour period.
- All patients in systemwide outpatient and ambulatory settings may have two (2) visitors *excluding COVID-19 units.*
- Visitors under the age of 12 are not permitted, including for the birth of a sibling.
- Special considerations are made for the following and detailed below:
 - Minor patients under the age of 18
 - Patients in labor and delivery and/or family birth centers
 - Patients in intensive care (*non COVID-19 units*)
 - Patients at end of life and/or in hospice/palliative care
 - Patients who need a healthcare decision maker or visitor to help with communication and/or mobility

Special Considerations

- Visitors are asked to stay no longer than two (2) hours per visit, except for parents/guardians, ICU, and hospice/palliative/end of life patients.
- Minor patients under the age of 18 may have two (2) visitors/guardians at any time.
- Patients in Labor and Delivery (active labor, before delivery) may have two (2) visitors. Both may be present at the bedside during visiting hours. One (1) visitor may remain overnight.
- Patients in Family Birth Center (after delivery) may have two visitors at a time at the bedside. One (1) visitor may remain overnight.
- Patients in hospice or palliative care may have two (2) visitors at a time at the bedside and one (1) visitor overnight.
- Patients in ICU (*non COVID-19*) may have two (2) visitors at a time at the bedside.
- Patients at Rehabilitation Hospital, Navicent Health may have two (2) visitors at a time at the bedside.
- Visiting hours at Rehabilitation Hospital, Navicent Health are 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. daily.

Patients may have 1 visitor overnight with the following exceptions:

- Patients in a unit designated for care of COVID-19
- Minor patients under the age of 18 may have two (2) visitors/guardians at any time.

Special considerations

- Overnight visitors must stay at the patient's bedside.
- Some Intensive Care Units lack capacity for overnight visitors; in these units, overnight visitors are at the discretion of unit leadership.
- Waiting rooms and communal sleeping areas will remain closed.
- If a patient needs an in-room procedure that requires the visitor to leave the room, the visitor may wait in the hallway outside the patient room or go for a walk.
- Some visitors arrive with patients via entrances other than the main visitor entrance (ex. Surgery, Emergency, Heart Procedures). In the event a patient who entered through any entrance other than the main visitor entrance be admitted and the visitor choose to stay overnight, the visitor must check-in at the main entrance and receive a visitor band during visiting hours (10 a.m. – 7 p.m.). If the patient is admitted after visiting hours, the visitor may stay overnight and check-in at the main entrance during the next day's visiting hours.

Visitors must continue to adhere to the following guidelines:

- Visitation is limited to two (2) visitors per day.
- Visitors must remain in patient room at all times.
- The two (2) designated visitors must stay the same per 24 hour period.
- Waiting rooms remain closed.
- Essential visitors may change out daily.
- Visitation hours will be held 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily.

The enhanced visitation policy applies to all Atrium Health Navicent locations, including:

- Beverly Knight Olson Children's Hospital Navicent Health
- The Medical Center, Navicent Health
- Medical Center of Peach County, Navicent Health
- Navicent Health Baldwin
- Rehabilitation Hospital, Navicent Health
- Monroe County Hospital, a Navicent Health Partner
- Putnam General Hospital, a Navicent Health Partner
- AHN Emergency Rooms, Urgent Care Centers, Clinics and Diagnostics Centers

All facilities may be accessed through their main lobbies and/or emergency centers. Individuals with cough, fever, shortness of breath or other flu-like symptoms are asked to refrain from visiting. Greeters at public entrances will continue to ask basic screening questions and temperature monitoring, guiding those seeking treatment to the appropriate location while assisting visitors as needed.

Atrium Health Navicent recognizes that interacting with loved ones can be helpful to the healing process and strongly encourage everyone to utilize other forms of support for their loved ones, including phone calls and video chats on cell phones or other mobile devices. Patients have access to Wi-Fi to assist with mobile communication.

The health of our patients and the community is the highest concern at Atrium Health Navicent. Our policies and actions are designed to safeguard our community. We appreciate the community's cooperation and understanding with our efforts to mitigate the threat of COVID-19.

For the latest information on Atrium Health Navicent's response to COVID-19, including our visitation policy, please visit www.navicenthealth.org. Atrium Health Navicent reserves the right to update the visitation policy at any time, based on current COVID-19 conditions.

About Atrium Health Navicent

Atrium Health Navicent is the leading provider of healthcare in central and south Georgia and is committed to its mission of elevating health and well-being through compassionate care. Atrium Health Navicent provides high-quality, personalized care in 53 specialties at more than 50 facilities throughout the region. As part of the largest, integrated, nonprofit health system in the Southeast, it is also able to tap into some of the nation's leading medical experts and specialists with Atrium Health, allowing it to provide the best care close to home – including advanced innovations in virtual medicine and care. Throughout its 125-year history in the community, Atrium Health Navicent has remained dedicated to enhancing health and wellness for individuals throughout the region through nationally recognized quality care, community health initiatives and collaborative partnerships. It is also one

of the leading teaching hospitals in the region, helping to ensure viability for rural health care for the next generation. For more information, please visit www.NavicentHealth.org.

###