COVID-19: New restrictions and guidelines announced

May 4, 2020 revised

As more COVID-19 cases are identified in Indiana, it's important IU Health has a single, consistent approach in how we treat and screens patients and visitors and extend the same safety precautions to all patients in our care, regardless of where they are. System leaders have agreed to institute a consistent screening process and set of visitor protocols at every IU Health location.

Screening process All IU Health locations will now use a consistent entry and screening process. IU Health will limit the number of access points to its facilities, so all visitors enter through main doors, and will be screened upon entry.

Beginning Monday, May 4th, the new screening process is:

- IU Health will screen for an updated list of symptoms:
    - "Do you have a new cough, shortness of breath, fever, chills, muscle pains, headache, sore throat, diarrhea, nausea, or new loss of taste or smell within the last 14 days?"
- The screening question will only be asked of visitors at the building entrance, not patients. All patients will receive a mask upon entry and be asked to hand sanitize as they do today.
- Patients will continue to be asked the screening question at the service area registration desk.
- Patients will continue to be asked the screening question when they meet with the Medical Assistant or nurse in nurse triage.
- Visitor/guest restrictions have not changed. If a visitor meets the visitor exception criteria AND passes the screening question, they will be permitted into the building and also given a mask and asked to hand sanitize as they do today.

Visitor Restrictions

The following updates have been revised as of April 8, 2020 and are effective immediately, however, it may take some additional time for all locations to be fully live with all restrictions.

IU Health Hospital and all care settings across the system

To better protect our caregivers, team members and patients, IU Health is restricting visitors at all locations and service areas across the system. Local leadership can also make exceptions on a case-by-case basis, as needed to maintain patient safety.

Exceptions – One Visitor Allowed

Exceptions will be considered in the following areas where a patient may receive **one consistent** visitor. Visitor must screen negative.

- OB/delivery or Certified Doulas may attend deliveries as a member of the care team
- Pediatrics
- Outpatient Surgery or appt (for additional consent needs and discharge)
- Inpatient surgery (must leave after surgery and patient is settled in room)
- Patient caretaker in-person education
- At the time of admission for a patient being directly admitted to the hospital
- Other exceptions may be made by senior leaders in the region based on patient safety
- Adult patients with disability, who need assistance due to the specifics of their disability*, with approval of CNO/CMO or designate

* Includes those with altered mental status, intellectual or cognitive disability, communication barriers, or behavioral concerns

Exceptions – Two Visitor Allowed

Exceptions will be considered in the following areas where a patient may receive **two consistent designated** visitors. **Visitors must screen negative.**

- Neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) – One visitor at a time of the two designated visitors.
- End of life/ comfort care (patients who are expected to pass within 24-48 hours)

Visitor guidance

- **Non-COVID-19 patients:** Visitors should go directly to the patient's appointment or room and stay with the patient at all times. When leaving, the visitor should exit the building in a direct route.
- **For COVID-19 patients:** Contingent upon adequate PPE supplies, for End of Life, one pre-arranged visit as scheduled with the care team will be permitted. For Pediatric or Disabled Adult with specific needs accommodations, the one consistent visitor should go directly to the patient's room and stay with the patient at all times.

IU Health administrative buildings visitor restrictions

- Generally, no visitors to IU Health office buildings
- Meetings with non-IU Health people should be done virtually using the phone, WebEx or other technology
- Vendors without an IU Health ID badge, who must enter the building to deliver items or perform necessary work, must be screened

IU Health construction sites personnel restrictions

- Vendors and contractors for Design and Construction (D&C) projects who have an IU Health ID badge, do not need to be screened. All others will be screened.
- D&C contractors will use alternative entrances other than the front door entrance when possible.
- D&C contractors are asked not to use hospital facilities such as the cafeteria or meeting space unless it is necessary.
- Vendors and contractors will follow IU Health travel guidelines specific to the COVID-19.

Personnel Restrictions

Volunteers

- Volunteer programs are generally suspended pending resolution of the Coronavirus event.

Learners/Students

- The PPE supply has been determined adequate to allow for onsite education of learners in all areas. Effective immediately, learners may resume in-person clinical education. Guidance remains in place that learners should not directly provide care to known/suspected COVID patients, nor should they participate in procedures requiring use of an N95 mask or surgical gown unless their participation is critical to the outcome of the patient or to meet an educational requirement (e.g. resident or fellow in the OR).
- Clinical site offerings may need to be adapted for some disciplines based on COVID-19 volumes. Regional leaders will work with local schools and universities based on established priority partnerships.