

# Update and Advice for Visitors to St Bernard's Hospital

To reduce the spread of infection, risk of over-crowding and maintenance of physical distancing, we have made changes to our visiting regulations. This has an impact on the total number of people permitted within specific areas.



## ALL VISITORS MUST WEAR A MASK ON ENTRY TO GHA PREMISES AND UNDERGO THE SYMPTOM CHECKER PROVIDED ON THE PUBLIC HEALTH WEBSITE.

Please note the following changes:

### Outpatient departments, Medical Investigation Unit, Endoscopy Unit, Day Infusion Unit / Radiology;

Only patients who are deemed vulnerable (as previously established by a GHA clinician) are entitled to be accompanied by a relative; these are people who may:

- have mobility difficulties (requiring a Zimmer frame or wheel chair)
- have learning disabilities
- require assistance for disabilities that may be physical, mental or psychological
- not have independent capacity to choose their care
- require assistance on departure from the hospital e.g. drowsiness (in this case, the visitor will only be allowed to enter to facilitate departure, not before or during the procedure)
- be receiving results and wish to have support

Only one designated family member may accompany a patient into hospital if they are undergoing a clinical procedure / clinical investigation or any other booked consultation if they meet any of the above criteria.

### Accident & Emergency:

When the capacity of A&E waiting area does not exceed more than twelve people (including potential patients):

- one relative is permitted to all Non Covid-19 related patients (especially in the case of known dementia/ vulnerable/ minor patients).
- no one is permitted to accompany the patient, if the patient is suspected Covid-19.

### Rainbow Ward:

- If a child is deemed Covid-19 negative, both parents and/or guardians can visit all day.
- If a child is suspected Covid-19, one parent/guardian permitted.

### Maternity Ward:

No more than twelve adults are permitted in maternity bays or areas (this includes clinical staff). No suspected Covid-19 cases should visit the ward.

- Partners are allowed to be present all day
- For antenatal appointments, the designated partner may accompany the patient.

Visiting restrictions, and re-entering the ward, is at the discretion of the ward manager or senior staff midwife in charge.

### Critical Care Unit:

- No changes (one nominated visitor per day, Covid-19 negative)
- The name of the nominated person who will be visiting should be communicated to the department the day before

### Victoria COVID Ward:

- No visitors permitted.

### Day Surgery:

- No visitors permitted.

### Dudley Toomey (Acute Surgical Ward), Captain Murchison (Acute Medical Ward) and John Mackintosh (Rehabilitation Ward):

- Visiting Hours remain from 17:45 – 18:45 hours.
- The nominated visitor must continue to see the same individual/s throughout the same visiting period/ day.
- The name of the nominated person who will be visiting should be communicated to the department the day before

Visitor waiting areas (not next to the bed) must not exceed more than twelve adults, or more than one visitor per 4 square metres, whichever is the least.

### Please note:

We may need to shorten visiting times to protect the welfare and privacy of all our patients; if this is the case, we will give you more information.

Despite these challenging times, we are working hard to reopen services and continue to care for our patient's safely. Remember, we are here to help you.

If you are a patient with a long term condition, please keep in touch with your clinical team.

### Preventing the spread of Infections

We take cleanliness and infection prevention very seriously, but need your help to keep our infection rates low.

Transmission can be reduced by diligent hand hygiene and adherence to wearing of face masks whilst in hospital premises.

