



Dear Parents,

Last year, due to concerns over potential spread of the COVID-19 virus, we joined organizations across the nation in significantly reducing visitors to both the hospital and the NICU. We recognize the strain this has been on your family and thank you for your support in helping us keep your baby and all of the families in the NICU safe.

With the rate of vaccinations increasing and new cases of COVID 19 in the community decreasing, we are happy to announce starting Monday, June 28, **we will allow families to select 2 support people (18 yrs. old or older only) in addition to the parents to enter the unit. These 2 people will remain your support persons for the duration of baby's NICU stay.** We strongly recommend you and your support people are up to date on all your vaccinations, especially the COVID 19 vaccination for the protection of your fragile baby and our medical teams.

We ask for your cooperation with the following guidelines:

1. **Designated support person/people may visit between the hours of 9am and 9pm with or without parents being present, with the proper picture ID. Parents are still welcome 24/7.**
2. We are still enforcing strict infection control practices, including:
 - Support persons must pass both the main hospital and NICU screenings.
 - Support persons will need to keep a mask on at all times, including while in the baby's room.
 - Support persons will need to follow all handwashing and hand hygiene protocols that parents follow.
 - Families must remain six feet away from other families in common areas including hallways, handwashing sinks, and at the front desk.
 - Any support persons who do not meet these criteria will be asked to leave.
3. General information may be shared with support persons; but specifics on baby's health will be given by our team to parents only who will share information if they choose to.
4. **While you may have additional support persons, only a total of 2 people (parents/support persons) can be in the baby's room at one time in addition to our staff.**
5. Support persons must leave the hospital after their NICU visit. We want to maintain social distancing by not using the waiting room as a visiting spot.

Ask your nurse for the family support form to fill out if you choose to designate anyone. With your permission, Chaplains may visit without being a designee.

Thank you for your help in moving forward with this change.

NICU Leadership