



Temporary Changes in Visitor Guidelines

Normal visiting guidelines will resume at the end of flu season.

Temporary Changes in Visitor Guidelines, 2009 – 2010 Flu Season

As a result of significant increase in patient volume and an influx of patients with flu-like symptoms, we have temporarily changed the visitation policy at all hospitals and health centers of Saint Joseph Mercy Health System.

- **Limit the number of visitors 16 years of age or older to 2 people at a time who are essential for the emotional and physical support of the patient they are here to see.** The patient or patient representative, with advice from physicians and nurses, will determine those who are essential for his/her support.
- **Individuals under age 16 should not visit the hospital unless approved by the team taking care of the patient.** Any individual under the age of 16, who is granted permission from the health care team to visit the patient, will be asked to wear a protective mask whenever possible.
- **ALL individuals of any age with the following symptoms should not visit the hospital:**
Fever greater than 100 degrees Fahrenheit

Plus one of the following:

Cough	Sore Throat	Fatigue	
Body Aches	Headache	Chills	Runny or Stuffy Nose

- **Exceptions:** If you have some of these symptoms, but feel that it is critical to visit a patient, you must:
 - Wear a protective face mask at all times while in the hospital/facility
 - Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer as directed
 - Use cough/sneeze etiquette (cough/sneeze into your elbow, not your hands).
 - Participate in additional procedures as requested for specific high-risk patient populations.

Thank you for your assistance in keeping our patients and staff healthy this flu season.