



Patient Visitation Rights Policy

Current Visitor Policy

- On admission or as soon as possible thereafter Astria Sunnyside Hospital and Astria Health Centers shall inform each patient (or support person, where appropriate) of his/her visitation rights, including any clinical restriction or limitation on his/her rights.
- Astria Sunnyside Hospital and Astria Health Centers will impose restrictions or limitations on visitors on a clinically reasonable bases including but not limited to:
 - There may be infection control issues
 - Visitation may interfere with the care of other patients
 - Astria Sunnyside Hospital and Astria Health Centers is aware that there is an existing court order restricting contact
 - Visitors engaging in disruptive, threatening, or violent behavior of any kind
- Each patient (or support person, where appropriate) shall be informed of the right, subject to his/her consent, to receive the visitors whom he/she designates. These visitors may include, but are not limited to, a spouse; a state recognized domestic partner (including same-sex partners), a non-registered domestic partner (including same-sex partners), other family members, or a friend. The patient shall also be informed of his/her right to withdraw or deny consent at any time.
- Astria Sunnyside Hospital and Astria Health Centers shall not limit, restrict, or deny visitation privileges on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability.
- Astria Sunnyside Hospital and Astria Health Centers shall ensure that all visitors designated by the patient (or support person, where appropriate) enjoy full and equal visitation privileges consistent with patient preferences.
- When a patient is incapacitated or otherwise unable to communicate his or her wishes and an individual provides an advance directive designating an individual as the patient's support person (it is not necessary for the document to use this exact term), the hospital must accept this designation, provide the required notice of the patient's visitation rights, and allow the individual to exercise the patient's visitation rights on the patient's behalf.
- Astria Sunnyside Hospital and Astria Health Centers may, when circumstances require, request written documentation of patient representation by a legal document. Examples of when documentation might

be required are if there is a conflict between two visitors or if there is a dispute as to who the patient support person is. Astria Sunnyside Hospital and Astria Health Centers shall follow RCW 7.70.065 in resolving conflicts among those claiming to be support persons.

- In no case may Astria Sunnyside Hospital and Astria Health Centers request documentation of status as a patient support person in a way that discriminates on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability.
- Alcoholic beverages and other unauthorized drugs and drug paraphernalia, (including prescription and non-prescription medications) may not be brought into the facility.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic,

- Persons entering Astria Health facilities will be screened:
 - Monitor temperature of anyone requesting entry. Assess for temperature >100.0, coughing or trouble breathing.
 - New cough that is not attributed to another medical condition
 - New muscle aches (myalgia's) not attributed to another medical condition or another specific activity
 - Throat pain not associated to another medical condition
 - New shortness of breath not attributed to another medical condition.
 - Positive COVID-19 test within 10 days
 - Prolonged exposure to COVID-19 positive person within 10 days or 7 days with a negative antigen test within 48 hours.

If any of these conditions are present, the visiting individual will not be allowed to enter the hospital or Astria Health Center for visitation.

COVID-19 remains a serious public health threat. The following restrictions are in place:

- All visitors requested to perform hand hygiene before entering areas within the hospital or clinics.
- Visitors will be screened upon entry and will only be allowed if they do not have symptoms of COVID-19.
- The risks of visitation will be explained to visitors and patients to make an informed decision about participation.
- Visitors 2 years of age and older (even if fully vaccinated) must wear well-fitting facemasks at all times while in our facilities.
- Visitors cannot have pending COVID-19 tests that were taken due to symptoms or exposure to a person who tested positive for COVID-19.
- Visitors cannot have tested positive and still be within their isolation period or have been in contact with anyone who tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 10 days.
- Visitors will maintain 6 feet of physical distancing from patients, healthcare providers, and other visitors whenever able.

For visitation of patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19:

- Limit visitors to the facility to only those essential for the patient's physical or emotional wellbeing and care (e.g., care partner, parent).
- Encourage use of alternative mechanisms for patient and visitor interactions such as video-call applications on cell phones or tablets.
 - If visitation to patients with a COVID-19 infection occurs, visits should be scheduled and controlled to allow for the following:
 - Facilities evaluate risk to the health of the visitor (e.g., visitor might have an underlying illness putting them at higher risk for COVID-19) and ability to comply with precautions.
 - Instruction is provided before visitors enter patients' rooms, on hand hygiene, and use of PPE according to current policy while in the patient's room.
 - Visitors are not present during aerosol generating procedures or other procedures, unless necessary as part of patient care.
 - Visitors are instructed to only visit the patient's room. They should not go to other locations in the facility.

Additional visitation strategies in collaboration with the patient's care team include for COVID-19 positive patients:

- Where accessible, family and friends may gather outside the closed patient room window.
- Utilize personal or room phones
- Coordinate with the care team for use of the department iPad to coordinate a virtual meeting using Amazon Chime
- English and Spanish instructions are provided for the family.