Per the “Safer at Home” state order issued by Governor Ivey, visitors remain prohibited in hospitals. Exceptions or continued restrictions for units, departments are set forth below. Exceptions may be allowed in situations where a caregiver’s presence improves the patient’s safety, emotional well-being, physical care, or end of life experience (compassionate care). Compliance with guidelines is required at all times.

**COVID-19 & Symptomatic PUI Inpatients**

- COVID-19 positive or Symptomatic PUI patients will not be allowed to have any caregivers present at the bedside.

**NON-COVID INPATIENTS**

- One competent caregiver (age 16 years or older) shall be considered in situations where his/her presence improves the patient’s safety, emotional well-being, or physical care. The one caregiver must:
  - Be Competent in his/her ability to improve the care and understanding of the patient and must be 16 years or older.
  - Follow Universal Masking Guidelines: Patient and caregivers should be wearing their own face covering upon arrival to the facility and must wear it at all times. If they do not have a face covering, a facemask should be offered as supplies allow, which should be worn while they are in the facility. Face coverings can be made of a variety of materials, including cloth. Face coverings should not be placed on children under the age of 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance. Individuals who are unable to wear a mask should consider not visiting due to the increased risk of disease transmission.
  - Agree to practice appropriate hand hygiene and limit the touching of surfaces in patient care areas.
  - Stay in the room: Caregivers are asked to remain in the patient’s room and not leave the unit or roam the hospital except for basic personal needs (ex: food, restroom)
  - Comply with entrance screening: We will continue limited and monitored points of entry. All visitors will be screened upon entry.
    - Entry into the facility is available at the Main and Emergency Room entrances. All visitors will be screened using questions and temperature checks. Entry will be denied to anyone who screens positive for symptoms of COVID-19 such as a temperature of 100.4, cough or shortness of breath.
Caregivers are asked to wear a visitor badge at all times. Badges will be provided at point of entry.

Caregivers, as defined above, may utilize the Main entrance Monday – Friday from 5:00 am to 2:00 pm. The Emergency Room entrance is available from 2:00 pm – 7:00 pm Monday – Friday and 7:00 am – 7:00 pm on weekends and holidays. Caregivers will not be allowed to enter the hospital after 7:00 pm unless requested by the clinical care team.

**Surgical/Procedural Patients**
- 1 caregiver (meeting the above requirements) may accompany the patient to assist with entry into hospital and registration.
- Caregivers will be permitted to utilize existing waiting rooms as long as space is available in consideration of social distancing requirements.
- Caregivers who choose to wait in the facility are asked to remain in the waiting room and not leave the unit or roam the hospital except for basic personal needs (Food, Restroom)

**End-of-Life Patients**
For non-COVID inpatients in which death is reasonably anticipated within 24-48 hours, 2 caregivers (meeting the above requirements) will be allowed at bedside.
- Caregivers may rotate with other caregivers.
- Caregivers will be required to follow all instructions from clinical staff related to hand washing, Personal Protective Equipment, entry/exit of facility, length of time with patient, etc.

**Maternity Care Patients**
Each patient will be allowed two caregivers/support persons to accompany them throughout their stay.
- Support person guidance:
  - The support person will be screened on admission and any time they reenter the building. If the support person does not pass screening, they will not be allowed to enter the facility.
  - The support person will be required to wear a mask at all times.
  - Support persons will not be allowed to rotate with others during the patient’s stay, as we continue to recognize the importance of reducing unnecessary exposure.
  - Support persons will receive an identification band by L&D/Post-Partum staff on admission. The band must be shown to screeners at reentry. This band will not be replaced if removed or damaged.
  - Support persons for COVID-19 positive patients will be determined on a case by case basis in collaboration with the physician and Infection Control.

**Emergency Department**
No caregiver will be permitted unless deemed by the care team as necessary for patient care or end-of-life considerations. If approved by the clinical team, one caregiver (meeting the above requirements) is permitted to remain in the patient’s room.

**Behavioral Health Inpatients**
No caregivers will be permitted to visit. Telephone visitation is available with the approval of the clinical team.