

Visitor Guidance

For inpatient units (excluding NICU, L & D, postpartum/antepartum, and inpatient psychiatry)

BIDMC has temporary visitor restrictions in place to help protect everyone from COVID-19. Our guidance is based on guidelines from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. We continue to monitor COVID-19 in our community and adjust our BIDMC guidance as needed. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

- Patients may have **two visitors at a time**.
- **Children under the age of 6 may not visit** unless they are visiting a hospitalized parent or sibling. On certain units, additional restrictions on children visiting may be in place. The patient's care team can let you know if this applies.
- Visiting hours are **noon – 7 p.m.** Visitors should arrive no later than 6:45 p.m.
- Anyone who is not feeling well or has **signs/symptoms of COVID-19 should not visit**.
- We continue to follow the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's guidelines in requiring that everyone in patient care spaces **wear a mask** covering the nose and mouth at all times. You may pick up a mask in the hospital lobby.
- All visitors must wear a BIDMC-issued surgical mask, even if they have **received the COVID-19 vaccine**.
- Visitors must **stop at the nurse's station** on arrival to the unit. They must **clean their hands** just before entering and just after leaving the patient's room.
- Visitors **may not eat or drink in the room**. They must **remain in the room unless otherwise directed by staff**.
- We must ask visitors who do not follow the above guidance to **leave the premises**.
- Limited exceptions to this guidance may be made at the discretion of the care team for **patients who have disabilities or special needs**.

Virtual visits

- We encourage and can help facilitate **virtual visits** via cellphone or tablet.
- Patients should remember to **charge their mobile device**. Our staff can help if needed.
- If the patient does not have a phone or tablet, most units have **devices that can be borrowed** for a virtual visit.