

For patients having surgery: Guidelines for escorts

BIDMC is expanding visitation and we are pleased to welcome visitors and escorts. We are providing the following guidance for escorts who accompany patients having surgical procedures.

- Patients having surgery may have up to **two (2) escorts** accompany them on the day of surgery.
- Anyone who is not feeling well or has **signs/symptoms of COVID-19** should not be an escort.
- 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.
- Escorts may wait with the patient in designated waiting areas. **No eating or drinking is allowed** in these areas.
- At present, **we cannot allow escorts into the pre-operative or post-operative areas**, unless the escort is essential to a patient's care.
- While the patient is in surgery, we encourage escorts to **leave the premises**. In cases of short surgeries where the patient is expected to leave the same day, escorts may wait in designated areas.
- Escorts who are waiting at the hospital **must wear a surgical mask at all times** in the waiting area. **No eating or drinking is allowed in waiting areas**.
- The **care team will be in touch** with a designated contact (family member or other support person) throughout the patient's stay. Please be sure we have the **correct contact information**.
- If the patient is **going home the same day**, we will contact the person picking them up to provide details about how to meet the patient and any discharge instructions.
- If the patient is being admitted, regular **hospital visiting policies** will apply. Please refer to policies posted at [bidmc.org](https://www.bidmc.org).