

## Guidance for escorts/visitors of patients having surgery

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have temporary visitor restrictions in place in order to keep everyone safe. This includes guidance for those who are bringing patients in for surgery. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

- The person bringing the patient in for surgery should drop them off in the lobby of the building where the surgery is taking place. **We are not allowing anyone to go with them to the preoperative area or waiting room**, unless special assistance is needed (see below).
- If the patient requires **special assistance**:
  - **Examples of special assistance** are patients who need help moving or communicating; other circumstances may apply on a case-by-case basis.
  - One adult escort for special assistance is allowed. Escorts will be **screened in the lobby** for risk of COVID-19. Those who do not pass the screen may not enter the facility. Those who do pass will be given a **visitor's badge**. This badge, plus a **hospital-provided surgical mask**, must be worn at all times. A mask must be worn even if the escort has received the COVID-19 vaccine.
  - While they are in the building, escorts should **clean hands frequently** and maintain **physical distancing** – staying at least 6 feet away from others.
  - Escorts may bring the patient to the waiting area. They may stay with the patient until he or she is brought into the pre-operative area. Escorts are then asked to **leave the hospital**. Due to space constraints and our need to maintain **physical distancing**, we cannot allow escorts to wait in the waiting rooms.
- There are **no visitors allowed in the recovery room**. 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.