

Support Person/Visitor Policy for Labor and Delivery and Obstetric Inpatient Units

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have temporary policies in place in order to keep everyone safe. This includes policies for support persons/visitors for all of our patients who receive pregnancy-related inpatient care at BIDMC. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

In all areas, “**support persons**” may be with the patient at any time. They may order hospital meals. “**Visitors**” are subject to hospital visiting hours.

For patients in Labor and Delivery

- Patients admitted to the Labor & Delivery unit may have **one or two healthy support person(s)**, unless the patient has tested positive for COVID-19. Patients with COVID-19 may have one healthy support person.
- Support persons in Labor & Delivery **must be 12 years old** or over. A support person between the ages of 12 and 17 must be accompanied by someone who is at least 18 years old.

For patients on the post-partum units and pregnant patients on the antepartum units

- Patients may have one support person. They may have additional visitors, according to regular hospital visiting policy.
- No visitors under the age of 12, unless they are visiting a parent or sibling. Pregnant patients’ healthy children, or siblings of newborns, may visit but may not stay overnight.

Applies to all areas

All support persons and visitors in any area must:

- **Be screened** before entering. If the support person/visitor has signs of COVID-19, they will be asked to isolate at home right away. The patient may designate someone else in their place.
- **Wear a hospital-issued surgical mask** at all times, even if vaccinated against COVID-19. (Visitor/support person may wear their own mask but must cover it with a hospital-issued mask.)
- **Clean hands** frequently.