NO VISITORS POLICY

All St. Peter’s Health Partners patient care and residential facilities are enforcing a NO VISITORS policy, with limited exceptions, noted below. No visitors under the age of 18 will be permitted entry to the facilities.

Some exceptions will be made for extenuating circumstances. Exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis for:

- Children admitted to the hospital
- Maternity units
- Patients or residents receiving end-of-life care

For approved exceptions, only one visitor per patient or resident will be allowed. They must be:

- 18 or older
- Either an immediate family member, power of attorney, guardian, or patient representative
- Healthy with no symptoms, including respiratory or fever

In those instances where an exception for visitation is granted, ONE UNIQUE VISITOR must be identified. This one visitor will be the ONLY VISITOR allowed visitation privileges for the duration of the patient’s or resident’s stay. In the event that ONE UNIQUE VISITOR becomes ill and cannot enter the facility, another individual may be identified and serve as the ONE UNIQUE VISITOR.

Given the prevalence of COVID-19 in the Greater NYC area, effective immediately, any individuals presenting for patient care at a St. Peter’s Health Partners facility from this affected area will be considered a patient under investigation (PUI) for COVID-19. This includes the five boroughs of NYC, Long Island counties, and the counties of Orange, Putnam, Rockland, and Westchester.

NO VISITORS from these areas will be permitted to enter SPHP facilities, even if they meet exemption guidelines. This includes the support individuals that accompany an expectant mother for labor and delivery. Screeners will be asking for county of residency and confirming with driver license zip code.
As part of these guidelines, all patients and visitors to St. Peter's Hospital, Samaritan Hospital, Samaritan Hospital – Albany Memorial Campus, Sunnyview Rehabilitation Hospital, Burdett Birth Center, nursing homes and Eddy Senior Living communities will be briefly interviewed upon arrival. At SPHP's facilities, access remains restricted to the emergency department, valet, and main entrances. Visitors may ONLY use these entrances to access our facilities.

Visitors will not be permitted to enter if they have a fever and/or respiratory symptoms, have had close contact with an individual suspected of having or has laboratory-confirmed COVID-19, or have traveled to areas with outbreaks in the past 14 days. If they answer “yes” to any of those questions during the screening, they will not be permitted to enter. Patients with respiratory symptoms will be masked and sent to the Emergency Department, if medical attention is necessary.

Individuals with cold/flu respiratory symptoms should self-quarantine at home and NOT visit patients/residents, or travel in public, until they are completely recovered. Respiratory viruses can cause more serious illness in hospitalized patients, so visitors (including vendors for SPHP) will be asked to return home until they are completely recovered.

**Individuals should only be coming to the hospital with respiratory symptoms if they are in need of urgent medical care.**

We understand this is a constantly evolving situation and a source of great anxiety for many of our patients, residents, colleagues, and community members. That is why we are working side-by-side with our regional hospitals and health systems to ensure that all colleagues and resources are in place, ready to protect our community. This is a necessary step to ensure the health and well-being of our patients, our colleagues, and our community-at-large.

As part of our ongoing efforts, we are continuing to work closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and other local health departments to actively monitor and respond to this extremely fluid situation.

3/27/2020