Requirements for Visitors to Healthcare Settings

Planning a visit to a hospital or nursing home? Here’s what you need to know. Read the full requirements and see the Q&A.

#1 You’ll need to show proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test

Visitors to hospitals and nursing homes must show proof of vaccination for COVID-19 or a negative COVID test (taken within the last 72 hours). This applies to anyone more than two years old (including those who cannot be vaccinated due to age or other reasons).

Only COVID-19 tests from approved testing sites are acceptable. Any PCR, antigen, or NAAT test approved for emergency use by the FDA is acceptable. Find a testing site.

However, exceptions include the following (but for no longer than 72 hours):

- If you’re visiting someone in critical condition and death may be imminent.
- If you’re a parent/guardian of a child seeking emergency care.
- If you’re supporting a labor and delivery patient or visiting for baby bonding.
- If you’re a support person for someone with a disability who is seeking emergency care.
- If you’re supporting someone during a hospital visit for outpatient services.
- If you’re on duty as a fire, police, or ambulance worker.

#2 You’ll need to wear a face covering at all times

Visitors must wear a well-fitting face mask over their mouth and nose (a surgical mask or double masking is always recommended).

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