

Gonzales Healthcare Systems
Policy

Subject: Amendment Patient Visitation Rights - Under COVID-19 GHS-012
§133.51Emergency Rule – GHS response to Covid-19

Purpose: The President of the United States declared a major disaster on March 13, 2020 due to Covid-19. Under the COVID-19 Pandemic, Patient Visitation Rights have been limited for the health, safety and wellbeing of all patient, visitors, staff, doctors and contractors.

Originating Department:

Review Date: _____	Initials: _____	Review Date: _____	Initials: _____
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Policy

Based on state and federal guidance, HHSC deems COVID-19 a health and safety risk for patients, staff and the public. GHS is required to take the following measures:

Patient visitors to Memorial Hospital are prohibited except for the following persons who have passed the current screening process. The screening process will be implemented by Incident Command and updated as needed. (See Current Screening Tool)

- Government personnel performing their official duties
- The attorney or other legally authorized representative of a patient when performing their official duties.
- Providers of essential services (contract doctors, contract nurses, hospice workers, other contract health care providers, SANE nurses, a single designated caregiver acting on the patient's behalf).
- A clergy member authorized by the hospital.
- One parent at a time of a minor who is a patient.
- Family members of a patient at the end of life or a patient presenting at the emergency department.
- Written visitation policies and procedures should set forth any clinically necessary or reasonable restriction or limitation that the hospital may need to place on visitation rights and the reasons for the clinical restriction or limitation.

Exceptions may be limited due to staff safety, patient safety and caregiver fatigue.


A person providing critical assistance or government personnel performing their official duty must be screened and meet the criteria for entry into Gonzales Healthcare Systems. If the person does not meet criteria the person will be denied entry.

If an emergency rule is more restrictive than GHS Policy, the emergency rule will prevail so long as the emergency rule is in effect.

If an executive order or other direction is issued by the Governor of Texas, the President of the United States, or another applicable authority that is more restrictive than this the emergency rule or any minimum standard relating to GHS, GHS must comply with the executive order or other direction.



CEO



Board of Directors