

Gonzales Healthcare Systems
Policy

Subject: **COVID-19 Entry Process to Gonzales Healthcare Systems**
§133.51 Emergency 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: Administration

Review Date: 5/5/2019 Initials: CV Review Date: 3/16/2021 Initials: SG

Review Date: 05/04/2021 Initials: JC Review Date: _____ Initials: _____

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:

Gonzales Healthcare Systems' entry process and restrictions for all persons (including but not limited to workforce members, independent contractors, visitors, etc.) entering any building will be limited and directed by Incident Command.

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.

The screening process is directed by Incident Command. Incident Command will follow state guidelines but, can be more restrictive.

Upon entry into Sievers Medical Clinics, Memorial Hospital Inpatient, Out Patient areas and Memorial Hospital Home Health all individuals will wear a mask.

Anyone who is employed by Gonzales Healthcare Systems, Hunter Pharmacy, HHS, or a Physician and their staff providing care in Gonzales Healthcare Systems, will be required to self-screen before coming to work or entering Gonzales Healthcare Systems facilities. If the individual has more than 1 of the symptoms below, they are required to contact the Chief Nursing Officer via cell phone.

All patients, visitors and vendors entering Memorial Hospital for inpatient or outpatient services will be screened for the following symptoms:

- Fever
- Signs or symptoms of respiratory infection, such as cough or shortness of breath, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose.
- Signs or symptoms of gastrointestinal issues, such as nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.
- Diagnosis of COVID-19 in the prior 10 days
- Exposure to COVID-19 during the prior 14 days

Gonzales Healthcare Systems may implement additional restrictions on visitors, other than government personnel performing their official duties, to reduce the health and safety risk to patients and staff.

If the 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 emergency rule or any minimum standard relating to GHS, GHS must comply with the executive order or other direction.

 5-5-2021

CEO Date

 5-4-2021

Board of Directors Date