



Ascension

To: Ascension St. Francis Hospital Associates and Medical Staff

CC: Kristin McManmon, President
Dr. Brad Fedderly, Vice President-Medical Affairs
Dr. Kathy Shallow, Chief of Staff

From: Jill M. Berg, RN, PhD, FAHA, FATA, FAAN
Vice President of Patient Care & Chief Nursing Officer

Date: September 28, 2020

Subject: Change in Visitation Policy Related to Increased COVID Presence

The COVID pandemic has continued to have a significant impact on the country, Wisconsin residents, and Ascension St. Francis Hospital (SFH). This week we are continuing to experience an increasing trend in the number of confirmed and suspected (PUI) hospitalized and outpatient patients. With this trend, we need to return to our No Visitor Policy practice for safety.

Effective September 29, 2020, we will no longer be allowing visitors for our inpatients, Emergency Department patients, or our outpatients coming to SFH for procedures. In the interest of safety for our patients, employees, and visitors, we believe this is the best approach for us to take at this time. An exception will be made for patients in labor who are admitted to the LDRP Unit. These patients will continue to be able to have one designated visitor for their hospitalization.

I want to thank each of you for your flexibility and dedication to our patients during this pandemic. Your teamwork and collegiality have been nothing less than remarkable. I am proud to have you as my partners as we work to deliver on our promise of exceptional patient care. The continued pandemic will require us to be creative as we adapt to changing demands. As always, continue to share your ideas and feedback so we can modify and improve together. Our team is committed to ensuring you have the resources and support necessary to care for our patients.

I am grateful for your dedication to our mission, our patients, and to each other. You are truly examples of God's love at work, caring for the most vulnerable in their time of need. As you do this, please be sure to take care of yourself as well. Your well-being is a priority, and there are a number of resources available to support you. [Ascension Wisconsin EAP COVID-19 page](#) and [Mission Integration Resources](#).

If you have any questions about these changes or the pandemic response, please contact your manager, any member of the Incident Command team, or me directly.