



# Russell Medical

## COVID-19 VISITOR ACCESS POLICY

In compliance with the amended “Safer at Home” state order issued by Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey and in compliance with CMS federal guidelines, effective March 9, 2021, Russell Medical will allow up to two visitors/support persons per **non-Covid** patient, subject to reasonable restrictions. For Covid-19 (+) or symptomatic patients, visitors/support persons remain limited except in special circumstances to include but not limited to end of life/compassionate care and during Labor and Delivery.

### VISITOR RESTRICTIONS

Visitation will be prohibited to all COVID-19 (+)/Persons Under Investigation (PUI) patients. Exceptions may be granted in special circumstances to include but not limited to end of life/compassionate care and during Labor and Delivery with an order by a treating physician.

The hospital reserves the right to ask any visitor, support person, and/or clergy to leave the facility if they are unwilling to comply with the above policy and restrictions.

The hospital reserves the right to limit or temporarily restrict visitor/support person/clergy access in all areas of the facility. The decision to restrict visitor/support person/clergy access will be made by the **department manager and/or nurse supervisor and the administrator on-call**.

Due to the changing nature of COVID-19's presence in Alexander City, Tallapoosa County, and surrounding areas, this policy will be revised accordingly in response to circumstances.

### SCREENING AND MASKS

All visitors/support persons/clergy will be screened at the entrances and are required to wear a mask during the entirety of their visit. Visitors/support persons/clergy are encouraged to bring their own mask. However, a surgical mask will be provided if they do not have one dependent upon supply availability. If supplies are not sufficient to maintain, visitors/support persons/clergy without a mask will not be permitted visitation.

All visitors/support persons/clergy must screen negative based on the following:

- Temperature (greater than 96.0 degrees but less than 99.0 degrees)
- Symptoms of respiratory infection (fever, chills, body aches, shortness of breath, new cough, loss of taste and/or smell)
- COVID-19 diagnosis (within the past 2 weeks) or pending Covid-19 test (symptomatic)

Entry will be denied to anyone who screens positive for symptoms of Covid-19 as listed above.

### MINORS

Children under age twelve (12) will not be allowed except under extraordinary circumstances.

## CLERGY

Patients will be allowed access to clergy or chaplains in conformance with the Religious Freedom Restoration Act and Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act.

## HOSPITAL ENTRANCES

Visitors/support persons/clergy for Russell Medical must enter through the lobby entrance at the front of the hospital during the week (Mon-Fri). Visitors/support persons/clergy who present to the Emergency Department during the week (Mon-Fri) or any other facility entrance to visit an inpatient during approved visitation hours will be directed to the hospital lobby entrance. The Emergency Department is the designated entrance for visitors/support persons/clergy on the weekends.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL VISITORS/SUPPORT PERSONS/CLERGY

- Screening – All visitors/support persons/clergy will be screened by temperature and a screening questionnaire. Those who are successfully screened will be given a visitor sticker which must be visibly worn during visitation.
- Inpatient Visitation – Non-Covid/non-PUI patients may have two visitors during the scheduled visitation hours. **Visitation hours are Monday – Sunday from 6AM – 6PM.**
  - a. ICU – **Visitation hours for ICU patients are Monday – Sunday from 2PM – 4PM.**
    - i. NOTE – Limited access to the ICU is associated with the hospital’s identified COVID unit.
    - ii. An ICU staff member will escort the visitor/support person/clergy to the patient room.
- Obstetric Patients – Non-Covid obstetric patients may have two adult visitors/support persons during the entire time at the facility.
  - a. Obstetric patients are limited to one support person in the room during labor and delivery.
  - b. Covid (+) or symptomatic PUI patients are allowed one support person to be present during labor in labor and delivery. The support person will be required to follow special instructions from clinical staff related to the patient’s PUI/Covid-19 status. The support person must leave upon the patient’s transfer to postpartum care.
- Outpatient Services – Non-Covid/Non-PUI patients may have two visitors/support persons.
- Adult and Pediatric Surgical Services/Procedures: Non-Covid/Non-PUI patients may have two adult visitors/support persons.
  - a. Visitors/support persons will be permitted to utilize existing waiting rooms as long as space is available in consideration of social distancing requirements.
  - b. Visitors/support persons who choose to wait in the facility are asked to remain in the waiting room and not leave the area or roam the hospital except for basic personal needs (e.g. food, restroom).
- Emergency Department – Two visitors/support persons will be allowed in situations where the visitor/support person’s presence improves the patient’s safety, emotional well-being, or physical care. Exceptions to this guidance will be made by the Nurse Supervisor on a case by case basis with strict adherence to social distancing and proper infection control guidelines.

- a. The visitor/support person must stay in the patient's room and not leave the department or roam the hospital except for basic personal needs (e.g. food, restroom).

**No visitors/support persons/clergy will be allowed for patients who have a pending or positive COVID-19 test except in special circumstances and only when ordered by the physician.**

**Visitors/support persons/clergy must stay in the patient room and wear a mask during their entire visit.**

Visitors/support persons/clergy are encouraged to bring their own food and snacks. Inpatient and surgical services patient visitors/support persons can go to the cafeteria but must wear a mask unless seated and eating.

- Visitor stickers must be worn at all times.
- Waiting rooms in the facility may have limited seating available due to social distancing guidelines.
- In-hospital interactions should maintain social distancing of six (6) feet, including interaction with a patient.
- Hand washing should be frequent and thorough.
- Compliance with any personal protection equipment or isolation requirements given by staff is required.
- We do not recommend vulnerable persons or those older than age 65, for their own safety, to visit at this time.