

MEMORANDUM

To: Dr David Rosengren, Executive Director RBWH
Angie Dobbrick, Executive Director Caboolture Hospital
Louise Oriti, Executive Director Redcliffe Hospital
Prof Leonie Callaway, Executive Director Women's and Children's Stream

Copies to: Adj Prof Jackie Hanson, Acting Chief Executive Metro North Health
Louise O'Riordan, Metro North Health Incident Controller
Dr Elizabeth Whiting, Executive Director Clinical Services

From: Dr David Rosengren, Acting Chief
Operating Officer Metro North Health

Contact No: 3647 9507

Subject: Hospital Visitors

File Ref: JD22/9088

Queensland Health has released the [Hospital Entry Direction \(No. 9\)](#) which updates restrictions for visitors to hospitals.

It is essential that no person will be denied access to care or treatment based on their vaccination status. Anyone making healthcare decisions for a patient, for example a parent or carer, will also be permitted to accompany the patient regardless of vaccination status.

Birth suite may have up to two support people regardless of COVID or vaccination status and all exemption applications should be supported.

Approved visitors must be informed of (and comply with) PPE and social distancing obligations.

Exemptions for COVID positive essential visitors to support childbirth or for compassionate reasons such as end of life visits, should be registered with your local EOC. These visits must be risk assessed (location and timing of visit etc) and any COVID positive essential visitor must be supervised at all times. COVID positive visitors cannot visit public areas within the hospital.

Hospital area	Visitor restrictions:
<i>Patient areas, during a patient's hospital stay, subject to specific restrictions below</i>	A maximum of two visitors at any time, subject to: a specific restriction in the table below applying or the Operator of the hospital allowing more than 2 visitors.
<i>Emergency department</i>	A single visitor is permitted in the following circumstances: • A parent/guardian of a dependent child • A support person for a patient requiring significant physical, communication or comprehension assistance • On compassionate grounds.
<i>Neonatal Intensive</i>	Parents/carers have unrestricted visiting with a maximum of two people

Hospital area	Visitor restrictions:
Care/Special Care Nursery	at a time. An Operator of a hospital may give permission for a sibling to visit on compassionate grounds.
Paediatric Unit	Parents/carers have unrestricted visiting with a maximum of two people at a time.
Pregnancy and birth	Antenatal clinics: Women are requested to attend appointments on their own. In exceptional circumstances, one support person may be allowed, but permission must be sought by phoning the clinic before arriving for the appointment. Birthing suites: Only two support people are allowed in the birthing suite. If the partner is present, only one other person is allowed. A birthing mother who is diagnosed with COVID-19 may have up to two support people in the birthing suite, including a support person who is a close contact of the birthing mother. Postnatal wards: After birth, no more than two visitors are permitted at any one time. The two visitors may be an adult and a child of any age.
Operating Theatre and Recovery Room	Visitors are not routinely allowed. Parents may visit children post-surgery.
Acute Medical Unit (ACU or ICU)	Two support people permitted at a time.
COVID designated zones, beds or wards	No visitors except where the patient is a child, has a cognitive impairment or has a need for a full time support person (due for example to frailty, self-care needs or a communication partner is required) provided the visitor is fully vaccinated, and has received a booster dose where eligible. The Operator of the hospital can permit visitors to a COVID designated area for exceptional reasons or an end of life visit in accordance with local protocols.



Dr David Rosengren
A/Chief Operating Officer
Metro North Health
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