



## 36.27 GUIDELINES FOR VISITATION DURING COMMUNICABLE DISEASE OUTBREAKS

SECTION:	MATERNITY SERVICES	EFFECTIVE:	REVISED:	REVIEW:
DEPARTMENT:	MATERNITY SERVICES	10/25/17	10/24/18	10/1/21

**PURPOSE:**

- Prevention is the goal of infection control in the Maternity Care Center. Hospital personnel will maintain a clean and safe environment for the infant.
- To protect the safety of neonatal infants and their families in the Maternity Care Center and in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, while encouraging growth, healing and family bonding.

**POLICY:**

- During any communicable disease outbreak, patients and visitors in the Maternity and NICU departments will be screened for communicable diseases. Visitation restrictions listed below will be enforced in the Maternity and NICU departments during outbreaks. Illness outbreaks will include, but are not limited to, respiratory (i.e. RSV) and gastrointestinal illnesses. Screening and visitation restrictions will always be observed in Maternity and NICU departments during “influenza season.” The dates of influenza season are established every year by the Infection Preventionist based on circulation of the influenza virus in KRMC’s geographical area. The season is typically late November until late March, but may be extended in either direction. Determination of influenza season will be based on identified positive cases in KRMC patients in conjunction with the State health department’s estimated level of the spread of influenza activity.
- Signs will be posted at both the Maternity main entrance and the NICU entrance

**Maternity Center**

- Only healthy siblings and adults over the age of 14 are allowed to visit
- All visitors, siblings and adults, will fill out a questionnaire at registration and be screened
- If yes is answered to any of the questions they will not be allowed to visit
- Good handwashing will be practice at all times upon entering and leaving the patient’s room

**NICU**

- No one, including siblings, under the age of 14 will be allowed to visit.

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- All visitors will fill out a questionnaire at registration and will be screened.
- If yes is answered to any of the questions, they will not be allowed to visit.

### FLU VACCINE:

- All visitors are highly encouraged to have received a flu vaccine prior to visitation. Visitors who have not been vaccinated will be required to wear a mask for the length of the visit. Masks will be provided at registration. A new mask is required for each visit and shall be discarded after a single use.
- Visitors with a negative screening questionnaire, but whom display symptoms of illness may be asked to leave

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