

NSW Health guide to healthcare visitation

11 August 2022

NSW Health continues to focus on providing a safe health service for patients, their families and carers, and staff, while providing kind and compassionate care.

Visitors to NSW Health hospitals, community health centres, and outreach clinics are welcome but must wear a mask correctly before entering and while inside a healthcare facility. Children aged 12 and under are not required to wear masks.

All visitors will be screened on entry and must follow the advice of healthcare staff at all times.

If the person you are wishing to visit is currently COVID-19 positive, your request will need to be clinically assessed and some additional restrictions may apply.

Some hospitals may implement additional, short-term restrictions in response to a local COVID-19 outbreak to minimise the risk of transmission and ensure the safety of patients and staff. This may include limiting the number of visitors at the bedside at any given time. However, in such instances hospitals must apply as far as practicable, care and compassion.

Visitors will generally be permitted if they:

- Wear a surgical mask correctly at all times while in the facility
- Have not tested positive to COVID-19 within the last 10 days
- Have not tested positive to another acute respiratory infection in the last seven (7) days
- Do not have symptoms of COVID-19 or other acute respiratory infection
- Are not high risk contacts of someone who has COVID-19 in the previous seven (7) days
- Have not arrived from overseas in the past 7 days

An exemption to any of the above criteria may be permitted on compassionate grounds and on a case-by-case basis including maternity and neonatal services.

Local Health Districts and Specialty Health Networks should monitor visitor volumes throughout their facilities to minimise risk.

More information to understand high risk contacts and general advice for people exposed to COVID-19 is [here](#).

More information on the requirements for participants in care for maternity services (birth partners) can be found [here](#).