



What the Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders is Doing to Keep Immunocompromised Patients Safe During COVID-19

In addition to the restrictions put in place by the current hospital visitation policy, the Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders has put stronger measures in place to protect our immunosuppressed patients, who may be more susceptible to COVID-19. If we all, including you and your family, adhere to the infection control procedures put in place, the risk to our patient population will be smaller. Thank you for partnering with us to keep our patients safe.

COVID-19 Family and Caregiver Visitation Policy

- We are screening patients and parents/caregivers at all Welcome Desk and check-in locations for the following COVID-19 symptoms: Fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat and/or respiratory symptoms.
- All visitors must sign in at the Welcome Desk, including those with long-term badges.

Outpatient Appointments

- All families must identify 1 parent/caregiver to accompany the child to their appointment. A caregiver must be an adult over age 18. Siblings under 18 cannot enter at this time.
- Long-term badges are no longer being issued, and all visitors must stop at the Welcome Desk to check in and be screened.
- Parents/caregivers with symptoms will be given a mask and asked to follow extra precautions for their appointment.
- Visitors will go through a second screening outside the elevator before entering clinic or the inpatient unit.
- Symptomatic patients will be isolated. They will still receive all necessary care and treatment, but will be separated from patients that are not showing symptoms.
- Clinic visits will be spaced out to allow for social distancing. Please come at your assigned time to avoid overcrowding.
- Telehealth visits will be offered whenever possible.
- Playrooms and the Art Room are now closed. Child Life will be available for children with long infusions. They will come to infusion pods directly.

Inpatient Stays



Children's National.

- All families can identify 2 parents/caregivers for their inpatient visitation list. A caregiver must be an adult over age 18.
- Only 1 of those parents/caregivers can be at the bedside at any given time.
- Siblings under 18 cannot enter at this time.
- Parents/caregivers with symptoms will not be able to enter the inpatient area. If a parent/caregiver develops a fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat and/or respiratory symptoms, he/she has to leave the hospital.
 - They will be permitted to return 7 days after the start of symptoms and 3 days after the last symptoms OR after a negative COVID-19 test and 24 hours without symptoms.
- Playrooms and the Art Room are now closed. Child Life, Art Therapy and Music Therapy will still offer a variety of services for children.
- **Patients can only leave the floor for approved medical procedures. Patients who leave the floor without approval will be put in isolation to protect other patients on the floor.**
- If we become aware of a potential COVID-19 case, we will promptly inform any families whose child may have been in contact with the suspected case.

The decision to restrict our visitation policy was difficult and we thank you for helping us keep our patients, staff and community safe. We are closely monitoring the situation and updating policies and recommendations regularly. We will do our best to keep you updated.

Please refer to the following resources for the most updated information.

- Children's National Hospital: <https://childrensnational.org/coronavirus>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- District of Columbia Government: <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/>
- Maryland Department of Health: <https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/Pages/Novel-coronavirus.aspx>
- Virginia Department of Health: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/surveillance-and-investigation/novel-coronavirus/>

Children's National Hospital Coronavirus Hotline: 202-476-5169