

## **NSW Health guide to healthcare visitation**

25 October 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 and are required to wear a mask before entering and while inside a healthcare facility. Children aged 12 and under are not required to wear masks.

Masks and hand sanitiser will be freely available at all healthcare settings.

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

If you have cold or flu-like symptoms such as a cough, fever, sore throat or runny nose please stay at home and don't visit a healthcare setting for at least seven days, and then ensure you have a negative RAT before visiting.

As an added precaution to protect patients and staff from infection, if you think you may be a high risk for having acquired COVID-19, please avoid visiting friends and family in hospital for 7 days after your exposure risk.

Some hospitals may implement 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 and increasing the use of personal protective equipment (PPE). However, in such instances hospitals must apply as far as practicable, care and compassion.

In the event of a local outbreak, exemptions to any restrictions will be permitted on compassionate grounds and on a case-by-case basis especially in maternity, neonatal and paediatric services and in end of life care.