

Open Visitor and Masking Guidelines

FAQs

OPEN VISITOR GUIDELINES

Q. Who is moving to Open Visitor Guidelines?

A. Advocate Health Care and Aurora Health Care adult and pediatric hospital inpatient, outpatient, emergency departments, clinics who share a hospital entrance, and free-standing ambulatory clinics and surgery centers are moving to Open Visitor Guidelines effective March 27.

Q. Why move to Open Visitor Guidelines?

A. IL and WI is experiencing declining rates of COVID and respiratory infections, allowing us to move safely to Open Visitor Guidelines.

Q. What is included in the Open Visitor Guidelines for adult patients?

A. Visitors are allowed for all adult patients. The clinical care team has discretion to limit visitors if they present health or safety risk to the patient, to themselves, or the health care team; or otherwise creates a public health or safety problem. See [Visitor Policy](#).

Q. What is included in the Open Visitor Guidelines for pediatric patients?

A. For general pediatric and ICU units, two visitors at one time are permitted per patient. For end-of-life situations, unlimited visitors are permitted at one time in the patient's room, based upon space and unit's ability to deliver safe care.

- Siblings under 12 will be screened for symptoms by the care team.
- Consideration can be made to allow additional siblings for short visits at the discretion of the care team.
- [See Pediatric Visitor Policy](#).

MASKING OPTIONAL GUIDELINES

Q. Who moved to Masking Optional?

A. Advocate Health Care and Aurora Health Care adult and pediatric hospital inpatient, outpatient, emergency departments, clinics who share a hospital entrance, and free-standing ambulatory clinics and surgery centers are moved to Masking Optional.

Q. Why move to Masking Optional?

A. All Advocate Health Care and Aurora Health Care facilities have transitioned to optional masking, following the expiration of the COVID public health emergency. The decision to implement this change was supported by low levels of COVID cases in the communities, markedly declining hospitalizations and high levels of population immunity.

Q. What is included in Masking Optional for Advocate Health Care and Aurora Health Care?

A. Masking is optional for all patients, visitors and teammates with some exceptions. Those who wish to continue to mask may do so. Masking is highly encouraged in patient care congregate areas, where many patients are together in one space. Masking continues to be a requirement as part of PPE for patients in transmission-based isolation and may apply in oncology and transplant units. To ensure our patients feel safe, we expect our physicians, nurses and other teammates to wear a mask if requested by the patient during their care encounter ([scenario script available](#)). Masks will continue to be provided at all entrances.