



Office of the Chief Executive Officer
Saint Elizabeths Hospital

DATE: March 25, 2020

TO: Legal Visitors

FROM: Mark J. Chastang
Chief Executive Officer
Saint Elizabeths Hospital

SUBJECT: Modifications to on-site visitation procedures for legal visitors to Saint Elizabeths Hospital

Saint Elizabeths Hospital (the "Hospital") is taking ongoing precautions to provide the safest environment possible for individuals in care, staff, and visitors. We are reinforcing healthy hand hygiene and informing staff and patients on how to recognize symptoms, as well as providing additional hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, masks, and gloves throughout the hospital. The most up to date coronavirus (COVID-19) notices from DC Health and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) are posted throughout the Hospital, at public entrances, and on the Hospital intranet. The Hospital continues to discuss prevention plans during unit community meetings and at all staff meetings, and will make appropriate adjustments as needed

In the spirit of protecting our individuals in care during the pandemic, we strongly encourage you to contact your clients via telephone or videoconference, whenever possible, since outside visitors pose the greatest infection risk to our individuals in care. We must ask for your patience as we screen all legal visitors to the Hospital for COVID-19, at the Intensive entrance to the Hospital. All legal visitors must arrive between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, for screening prior to being permitted to enter the building, and visits must be completed by 6:00 PM. If you do not arrive in time for the screening, the visit will need to be postponed to the next business day. We must ask for your cooperation as we enforce the Hospital's 2018 Campus Visits Policy (106.01) IV, H. Legal, Expert or Regulatory Visits for Individuals in Care. Because of the space restrictions of the visitation room and the need to provide social distancing to prevent infection, it is imperative that you call the SEH Chief Clinical Officer, Dr. Richard Gontang, or his designee at (202) 299-5100 to schedule your visit in advance. Visits outside of the normal business hours must be approved by the Hospital's Deputy Director of Forensic Services, Chief Clinical Officer, Supervisory Clinical Administrator, or Nursing Shift Supervisor, and are subject to coronavirus screening as well. In the meantime, we would like to assure you that the hospital has no confirmed cases of COVID-19.

The Hospital continues to work diligently to mitigate the risk COVID-19 poses at Saint Elizabeths Hospital. If there are any major updates to infection control and prevention at the hospital, we will communicate them to you. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the treatment team directly at (202) 299-5100.

For more information and resources, please visit coronavirus.dc.gov.