

### Objectives of this document:

Provide clinicians with recommendations based on best practices for advising personnel regarding patient visitation in the NICU setting.

- I. TITLE: SSM Health, NICU Infection Prevention Visitation Protocol
- II. PURPOSE STATEMENT: Out of an abundance of caution, this restricted NICU visitor protocol will be implemented to proactively provide a patient care environment that supports infection control during a known infection season
- III. SCOPE: This protocol is applicable to all NICUs in SSM Health.
- IV. PROCESS:
  - a. No volunteers are permitted in the NICU
  - b. Only 2 visitors may be identified to visit per patient/multiple (ex. 2 visitors only for both twins). These identified visitors cannot be changed once identified.
  - c. Visitors are only limited to parents and legal guardians. Any requests beyond this must be evaluated and approved by NICU management.
  - d. Visitors will be screened for relevant symptoms daily.
  - e. All individuals must complete a 2-minute scrub upon each entry into the NICU
  - f. No students (nursing or medical) are permitted to enter the NICU
  - g. Clinical personnel not actively engaged in patient care are not permitted to visit the NICU (for example but not limited to: neonatologist not on service, transport team members, administrative personnel, etc)
  - h. All ancillary employees must don a mask and complete a 2-minute scrub upon each entry in the NICU. This includes but not limited to: lab, radiology, pharmacy, dietary, and therapy).
- V. PARTICIPATION DEPARTMENTS
  - a. All SSM Health NICU departments
- VI. PROCESS FOR IMPLEMENTATION
  - a. Can be implemented at the discretion of clinical leadership based on need. Implementation should be communicated as appropriate with local, regional, and/or system stakeholders.
- VII. For areas outside the NICU please reference the document entitled: **Visitor Restrictions**.