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.