

# Pastoral care visits

## DURING THE PANDEMIC

Per Baylor Scott & White policy, visitation is permissible by clergy for end-of-life (EOL) situations when in-person visitation is deemed to be emotionally, socially or spiritually beneficial.

### Pre-visit

- **Coordinate and confirm.** Call the facility's Pastoral Care Department to confirm that the visit is approved before arrival, including the date and time of the visit.
- **Review.** Read the **BSWH Hand Hygiene and Safe Removal of Personal Protective Equipment** tip sheet before each visit to a BSWH facility.
- **Plan.**
  - All patient visits should be as brief as possible, typically no more than 10 minutes
  - Maintain at least six feet of distance from family members in the room with the patient; there should be NO physical contact with the patient or family members
  - Leave everything in the car, except for your ID, keys and necessary visitation items

### Arrival screening

- You will be screened at every visit at the designated entrance by BSWH personnel.
- Your temperature will be checked by the screener.
  - Visitation is excluded if your temperature is 99.6 or greater
- You will be asked if you have had any of the following: fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, weakness, muscle pain, diarrhea, vomiting, loss of smell.
  - Visitation is excluded if you have symptoms
- **IMPORTANT:** Even if you do not have the symptoms listed above, please let our check-in personnel know if you are feeling unwell.
  - If you have a fever, symptoms, or are otherwise feeling unwell, our screeners will ask if you need emergent care
    - If you do not need emergent care, you will be asked to leave the campus and advised to contact your primary care physician for medical evaluation

### Entering the facility

- You will be asked to perform hand hygiene to enter the building.
  - Use provided alcohol-based hand sanitizer and rub all surfaces of hands thoroughly for at least 20 seconds until dry **OR**
  - Wash hands with soap and water thoroughly for at least 20 seconds
- If your screen is negative and the visit is allowable by BSWH policy, you will be escorted by BSWH personnel to the department/unit for your visit.

- If you arrived in a mask, wear it to enter the building.
  - If you do not have a mask, one will be provided
- For all visits within BSWH, you are required to wear a mask at all times while in the facility.
  - Do not remove your mask at any time during the visit
- Gloves should not be worn to enter the facility.
  - Gloves are not worn by visitors outside of patient rooms due to risk of environmental contamination

## Arrival on unit

- Check in with the patient's assigned nurse before entering the patient's room.
  - The nurse will confirm that a visit is permissible at this time and will communicate any special instructions or necessary information (e.g., general patient status, time limits, personal protective equipment (PPE) required)
- If additional/other PPE is required, it will be provided to you at no cost, including mask, gown, gloves and eye protection.
  - PPE requirements may vary by department/unit, and by patient type (COVID-19 versus non-COVID-19 patient)

## Entering the patient's room

- Perform hand hygiene immediately before entering the room.
  - Use provided alcohol-based hand sanitizer (wall mounted dispenser) and rub all surfaces of hands thoroughly for at least 20 seconds until dry, **OR**
  - Wash hands with soap and water thoroughly for at least 20 seconds
- Don/put on all PPE **BEFORE** entering the patient's room (staff may assist in proper donning and removal as needed).
  - REMINDER: Mask is worn at all times while in BSWH facility
- While in the patient's room:
  - Do not touch the patient directly
  - Avoid contact with surfaces, furniture or items within the patient's environment
  - If the patient is anointed, use an instrument such as a cotton swab or a clean glove to apply the oil to the patient's skin
  - Anything brought into the patient's room, such as paper with ritual prayers, or container with oil, must be discarded in the patient's room before leaving and not reused
  - No ritual books may be taken into and then removed from the patient's room

## Exiting the patient's room

- If worn, remove your gown and gloves at the door inside the patient's room before exiting.
    - Gown and gloves may be placed in the regular trash container
  - Perform hand hygiene immediately after removing gown and gloves.
  - Exit room and close the door behind you (you may use a clean glove to avoid touching the door handle).
    - If you touched the door handle with bare hands, immediately perform hand hygiene again
- Staff will provide guidance on steps for safe removal of goggles/eye protection, if worn.

- Perform hand hygiene again after all PPE (except mask) has been removed; continue to wear mask until you've exited the building.

## If you plan to visit more than one patient while in the facility

- Notify the staff at check-in; a visit to more than one patient must be carefully coordinated and you will need an escort to each department/unit.
- Visit COVID-infected patient(s) **LAST**, after visiting non-infected patients.
  - You may **not** visit a non-infected patient after visiting a patient who is suspected of COVID-19 or positive for COVID-19

## Exiting the building, before going to your car

- Remove mask and clean hands.
  - Lean forward slightly; grasp by ear loops or ties and remove mask, without touching the front of the mask
  - If mask is **not** cloth and was provided by BSWH, discard in nearest regular trash container
    - BSWH does not recommend re-use of disposable masks or gloves
  - If mask **IS** cloth and will be reused, place it face down into a paper bag or plastic bag to transport home for laundering
  - Perform hand hygiene

## Arriving home

- Remove and wash clothing and cloth mask (if worn) right way.
  - Do not continue to wear or re-wear clothing or a cloth mask without laundering in-between uses
  - If cloth mask was carried home, discard paper or plastic bag used for transport
- Shower or bathe immediately.
- Clean and disinfect any surfaces in your home that your clothing or other items may have touched after returning home.

## Stay healthy, and monitor your health

- Follow social distancing guidelines.
- Wash your hands frequently.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.
- **Be alert for symptoms.** Watch for fever, cough, shortness of breath, or [other symptoms](#) of COVID-19.
- **Take your temperature** if symptoms develop.
  - Don't take your temperature within 30 minutes of exercising or after taking medications that could lower your temperature, like acetaminophen
- Follow [CDC guidance](#) if symptoms develop.
- Do not schedule any clergy visits if you develop any symptoms or if you are feeling unwell.