



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
WILLIAM BEAUMONT ARMY MEDICAL CENTER  
18511 HIGHLANDER MEDICS STREET  
FORT BLISS, TX 79918

MCHM-MZA

10 December 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Virus Mitigation Strategy to WBAMC Regulation 190-16

1. REFERENCE:

- a. WBAMC Regulation No. 190-16, VISITOR REGULATION
- b. Appendix 7 Annex M COVID-19 Response Plan
- c. WBAMC COVID Bed Expansion Plan
- d. CDC Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic.  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html>

2. PURPOSE. The purpose of this memorandum is to update the William Beaumont Army Medical Center (WBAMC) Provost Marshall Visitor Regulation 190-16 to mitigate the threat of COVID-19 or other virus transmission.

3. APPLICABILITY. At the direction of the Commanding Officer, WBAMC will reduce visitor access in order to decrease the risk of COVID-19 or other virus dissemination within the facility.

4. GENERAL. Effective on the date of signature, WBAMC will adopt the following changes to the WBAMC Regulation 190-16, Visitor Regulation; these changes will apply throughout the facility and be incorporated in future versions of WBAMC Regulation No. 190-16, VISITOR REGULATION.

5. POLICY. At the low risk (yellow) level (per enclosure 3) only **one** visitor will be able to visit NONCOVID patients at a time, COVID patients are **not** allowed visitors. At medium risk (orange) level the visitation status stays the same as low risk level, however all visitors will fill out a visitor screening form and be provided a patient visitor band. Inpatient unit staff will maintain visitor log (enclosure 1) in a designated visitation screening binder. At the high risk (red) level, there will be no visitors on the inpatient wards unless an exception is granted. The WBAMC Public Affairs Office will ensure changes to visitation policy are publicized.

a. Visitors will be screened at common entry points and will not be permitted access if admitting to symptoms or exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19. Hand hygiene is required before entering the facility. All visitors will wear, at a minimum, a face mask throughout their visit, and other personal protective equipment as directed by medical staff. Additional personal protective equipment may be required by attending medical staff. Visitors can be allowed to wait in a lobby or waiting room. Social distancing is to be maintained at all times during the visit. Visitors who fail to comply with this policy will be escorted off the campus by security personnel.

b. Exceptions to visitation restrictions will be approved by the following process. Approval for “exception” visitors will be vetted by Infection Control during the work week and section CNOIC’s (or their designee) afterhours/weekends/holidays. Once cleared, the attending medical provider may place orders—with an added comment of “Visitor approved by infection control: First and Last name of approving authority”.

6. The following categories have exceptions for additional visitors:

a. Laboring and Post-partum patients: A parent or legal guardian may bring newborns and infants (age 18 months or younger) to an appointment if supportive parental measures are required (breastfeeding measures, guardianship, etc.). The parent must ensure hospital policy is followed. Patients admitted to MCHS may have one approved support person, per MCHS policy.

b. Patients at risk for imminent death (within 24 hours): These patients will be allowed 1 visitor at a time during patient specified unit visitation hours.

c. For WBAMC Emergency Department (ED) patients, in addition to the one (1) visitor:

(1) Patients presenting to the WBAMC ED for medical assessment, evaluation and/or treatment as a result of alleged crime(s) (e.g. sexual assault, domestic violence, child maltreatment, etc.) or high risk behavioral health concerns or select trauma cases, at the discretion of the ED staff in coordination with authorized liaison representatives, will be allowed one (1) support person for the safety and comfort of the patient.

(2) Patients presenting to the WBAMC ED who are unable or limited in their ability to care for themselves or communicate effectively, such as those who are critically ill, unresponsive, elderly, disabled or have significant communication barriers will be allowed one (1) support person at the discretion of the ED staff.

(3) Patients under the age of 18 years may be accompanied by one (1) parent or legal guardian. No other children will be allowed to accompany the parent/guardian

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except in extreme cases of hardship, such as single parents with no childcare options at the time of the emergency visit, at the discretion of the ED staff.

d. Ambulatory Clinics: All clinics will continue to follow local clinic policies on visitation, for scheduled appointments requiring additional visitors not mentioned above, the medical provider may provide the patient(s) with a memorandum for record justifying the exemption prior to the patient's visit. The patient shall present a copy of the memorandum upon entry into the treatment facility. An example memorandum is provide in Enclosure 2.

7. The point of contact for this memorandum is the WBAMC Provost Marshal at (915) 742-3657.

3 Encl

1. Visitation Screening Form

2. Example Memorandum from Provider

3. Low/Med/High Risk Visitation Matrix

BRETT H. VENABLE

COL, MS

Commanding

**Enclosure 1**  
**Visitation Screening Form**

Section 1: Visitor Information (Required**)		
Last Name: _____	First Name: _____	MI: _____
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; width: 300px;">Telephone number</div>		
Section 2: Patient Information (Required**)		
Last Name: _____	First Name: _____	MI: _____
Clinic/Ward Visiting: _____	Relation to Patient: _____	
Section 3: Visitor Screening Questions		
	Yes	No
Are you over the age of 65?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b><u>Do you have any of the following conditions?</u></b>		
Chronic lung disease [e.g., moderate to severe asthma, emphysema, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)]	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Diabetes Mellitus	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Heart disease	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chronic kidney disease	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Immunocompromised condition (e.g., chemotherapy, cancer, HIV, organ transplant, prolonged use of corticosteroids)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Neurologic/neurodevelopmental disease	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Current or former smoker	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Severe obesity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chronic liver disease	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Section 4: Signature		
<p>The above information is accurate to the best of my knowledge and I understand that if I answered yes to any of the above questions, I am at increased risk of contracting COVID-19 and of having significant complications and even death. With this knowledge, I still wish to visit a patient at WBAMC</p>		
<b>Signature:</b> _____	<b>Date:</b> _____	

*This form should be securely filed in the unit visited for 30 days. It will not be added to the patient's electronic or hard chart.*

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**Enclosure 2**  
**Example Memorandum from Provider**



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
WILLIAM BEAUMONT ARMY MEDICAL CENTER  
5005 N PIEDRAS STREET  
EL PASO, TX 79920-5001

MCHM-CMO

17 June 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Visitor Admission to William Beaumont Army Medical Center (WBAMC)

1. The following patient under my medical care: [Patient Name].
2. [Patient Name] is coming to WBAMC on 10 February 2021 for a 20-week ultrasound.
3. It is vital that [Requested Visitor Name] accompany the patient for emotional support.
4. We will keep them in an exam room separated during the monitoring period so this does not impact other patient's care.
5. The point of contact for this memorandum is the undersigned at [Phone Number].

[PROVIDER'S NAME]  
[RANK], [BRANCH]  
[TITLE]

Risk Level	Determination of current risk level	Visitation Status
Low	<u>Phase 1</u> of the COVID Expansion plan There are only COVID patients on 7IMC and not on any other wards (other than LD/ER)	-One visitor per NONCOVID patient -COVID patients require exceptions -LD/ED continue to follow their standard visitation policy
Medium	<u>Phase 2a</u> of the COVID Expansion plan COVID patients are on 7IMC and on 6SURG behind closed double doors ➤ No more than 8 COVID beds on 6 Surgical	-Visitors for NONCOVID will all fill out screening forms and abide by infection precautions outlined by the patients care. -COVID patients require exceptions -LD/ED continue to follow their standard visitation policy -Security to enforce visitor/mask compliance
High	<u>Phase 2b and onward</u> ➤ 8 COVID beds on 6 Surgical ward	<b>NO VISITORS</b> on ANY INPATIENT WARDS -LD/ED continue to follow their standard visitation policy <u>Exemptions:</u> -Implementation of the visitor band -Security to enforce visitor/mask compliance -All exceptions fill out screening forms

Exceptions to no visitation policy: Must be vetted through infection control and/or the CNOIC of the ward to prevent compromising healthcare provider and patient relationships. Once it has been cleared, then a provider will write an order specifying the individual (s) who are allowed to visit with the designated patient.

- Imminent death will be authorized one visit
- Designated caregivers: must be specifically delineated in patient history, and two individuals are identified and noted in patients chart and rotated.  
No exception to other personnel

Visitation Band: Band that specifies visitors on all wards, provides another communication tool to the visitors on the current visitation rules and regulations. Additionally assists security in identifying visitors on the inpatient wards.

Use of iPads recommended over physically visiting patients in the wards