

Visitor Guidelines

Why are visitor guidelines at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) different during viral season?

The winter viral season is always a cause for concern at CHOP, because hospitalized children can more easily catch a virus such as the flu, and it can make them very ill.

During this period, we have put in place a new visitor policy, which restricts Hospital visitation during high periods of virus outbreaks. This policy is based on a system of three levels. Level 1 represents our normal visitor policy. As the incidence of viruses in our area increases, we may need to implement Level 2 or Level 3.

What do the levels mean?

Level 1

Regular visitor guidelines

Level 2 and Level 3

The chart below tells you in more detail where visitors may go.

Level 2 and Level 3 – Visiting by location and person ● = OK to visit this area

	Parent/ Guardian		Adult Visitor		Child Visitor (under 14 yrs)	
	2	3	2	3	2	3
Patient Room	●	●	●		●	
Cafeteria	●	●	●		●	
Schlimm Center	●	●	●		●	
Connelly Center	●	●				
Family Kitchens	●	●				
Library and Learning Centers	●	●				
Lounge	●	●				
Patient Care/Treatment Area *	●	●				
Playroom	●	●				

*Treatment Areas include areas such as medical imaging, occupational therapy and physical therapy.

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How else can I help contain the spread of viruses in the Hospital?

If you are not the parent or guardian of a patient, do not come to the Hospital if you don't feel well or have been sick in the past 48 hours with fever, cough, sneezing, diarrhea, fatigue or any other symptoms.

Another way to help protect our patients is to always wash your hands thoroughly or use hand sanitizer when entering the patient room and other areas around the Hospital.

At Level 3, children may not enter the Hospital. What if I am breastfeeding a child (other than the patient)?

To protect both the patient and the infant or child you are breastfeeding, the infant or child may not come to the patient's room or the inpatient unit. You may breastfeed in the atrium, the cafeteria or the Connelly Center.

At Level 3, no family members other than parents or guardians may enter the Hospital. Will there be any exceptions?

Yes. The medical care team will make exceptions in some cases.

How long will Level 2 or 3 stay in effect?

We cannot say with certainty how long any level will remain in effect because the spread of viruses is difficult to predict. We will keep the levels in effect for as long as necessary to protect our patients.

Thank you for helping to protect our patients.