



## State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES  
ANCORA PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL  
301 SPRING GARDEN ROAD  
ANCORA, NEW JERSEY 08037-9699  
(609) 561-1700

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CYNTHIA R. VETRANO  
*Acting Chief Executive Officer*

December 17, 2021

Dear Family Member/Guardian,

We recognize how important family contact is to the health, wellbeing and recovery of our patients – your support and involvement in their care and treatment is critical as each patient travels along their journey towards wellness and recovery. ***We are excited to inform you that as of Monday December 20, 2021, we will be reinstituting indoor patient visitation at Ancora Psychiatric Hospital.*** These indoor visitations will be held in a manner which keeps our patients, staff and visitors healthy and minimizes the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

**The INDOOR VISITATION PROGRAM will resume on a limited basis as we transition into 2022.** Please note below the details of the reintroduction of APH's indoor patient visitation program:

- Indoor patient visitation days will be on the following days:
  - **Cedar Hall and Birch Hall** on Mondays and Thursdays 6:00pm – 8:00pm
  - **Main Building** on Wednesdays 6:00pm – 8:00pm
  - **Holly Hall and Larch Hall** on Tuesdays and Fridays 6:00pm – 8:00pm
- Based on the visitor's room capacities, visitation may be limited to less than 30 minutes due to space constraints
- Family members/loved ones/guardians will preschedule their visits with the building secretary of the building in which their loved one is being treated. All visits must be pre-scheduled. The building secretaries may be reached at 609.561.1700:
  - Main Building – extensions 7717, 7697
  - Birch Hall – extensions 8952, 7928
  - Cedar Hall – extensions 7839, 7819
  - Holly Hall – extensions 7709, 7749
  - Larch Hall – extensions 7580, 7885

- Based on the visitor's room capacities, visitation may be limited to less than 30 minutes due to space constraints
- Two adult visitors per patient may visit at one time.
- Each visitor needs to bring a form of ID.
- Visitors will report to the Visitor's Center at Poplar Hall upon arrival to the campus.
- Visitors will be provided a screening form with questions related to medical symptoms and travel. If the responses indicate that the visitor has medical symptoms, or has traveled outside of the state of New Jersey in the past 14 days (*excluding* travel to the states of New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and Delaware), the visit will not be granted.
- Security staff will scan all visitors with a metal detector and will obtain temperature readings utilizing a no-touch thermometer. If an individual has a fever over 100.4 degrees, the visit will not be granted
- Visitors will be transported to the buildings via transport van. One family will be transported at a time, which may result in minor delays.

Additionally,

- Patients residing on quarantined units will not be able to receive visitors. Please contact the Nursing Care Coordinator at 609-567-7205 to find out whether your loved one is being treated on a quarantined unit.
- Patients monitored on COVID-19 precautions will not be able to receive visitors.
- Individuals at high risk of contracting COVID-19 are strongly discouraged from visiting.
- Ancora Psychiatric Hospital will provide each visitor with a surgical face mask. If the visitor prefers to wear their own mask, they may wear it under the surgical mask provided by the hospital.
- A minimum of six feet will be maintained between visitor and patient during the visit. Physical contact will not be permitted during the visit.
- Visitors may not bring food or drink during the visit.
- Visitors and patients are required to remain with their assigned patient/visitor. Visiting with other families/patients is not permitted.

The **VIRTUAL VISITATION PROGRAM** will be held on Saturdays and Sundays between 6:00pm and 8:00pm.

- Each visitation will be limited to 15 minutes so that multiple patients are afforded the opportunity to receive virtual visitation.
- If necessary, the virtual visitation will be limited to once per week for each patient to ensure each patient is afforded the opportunity to receive virtual visitation.
- The visitor will provide a valid email address when scheduling the visitation so the building secretary can send a visitation invitation. The family member/loved one may download the Microsoft Teams app to their device or can use the Calendar function of their email to join the visitation at the scheduled date and time.
- Visits to be held via the unit cell phone(s) or the team room speaker phone will be scheduled in the same manner through the building secretary.
- The patient is required to wear his/her surgical mask at all times during the visit. If the patient refuses to wear the mask, the visit will end.
- For those families/loved ones unable to access these virtual visitations, a regular phone call utilizing the unit cell phone or team room speaker phone can be used for the visit. As with the Microsoft Teams visitation, the monitoring staff member will provide a reminder when there are two minutes left in the visit to ensure the visit ends on time, allowing for the proper disinfection of the team room, prior to the next scheduled phone call.

We recognize how important family contact is to the health, wellbeing and recovery of our patients — your support of and involvement in their care and treatment is critical as each patient travels along their journey towards wellness and recovery. We are hopeful that this visitation process promotes your ongoing relationship with your loved one.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Vetrano". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Cynthia" and last name "Vetrano" clearly distinguishable.

Cynthia R. Vetrano MSW, LCSW  
Acting Chief Executive Officer

