



## State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES  
ANCORA PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL  
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JOSEPH CANALE  
*Acting Chief Executive Officer*

June 30, 2020

Dear Family Member/Guardian,

As you are aware, we had to temporarily suspend patient visitation due to the COVID-19 pandemic and as per the CDC and DOH guidelines in an effort to curb the transmission of the virus. It is our hope that you were able to maintain contact with your loved ones via phone calls and Teams/Zooms teleconferences.

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 Wednesday July 8, 2020, we will be reinstituting patient visitation at Ancora Psychiatric Hospital. These outdoor visitations will be held in a manner which keeps our patients, staff and visitors healthy and minimizes the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

Please note below the details of the new patient visitation program:

- Daily patient visitation hours will be between the hours of 6:00pm – 8:00pm
- Based on the yard capacities, visitation may be limited to less than two hours due to space constraints
- Potential visitors 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 7362, 7929
  - Birch Hall – extensions 8952, 7928
  - Cedar Hall – extensions 7819, 7839
  - Holly Hall – extensions 7709, 7282
  - Larch Hall – extensions 7580, 7885
- Two adult visitors per patient may visit at one time.
- Visitors will report to the Visitor's Center at Poplar Hall upon arrival to the campus.

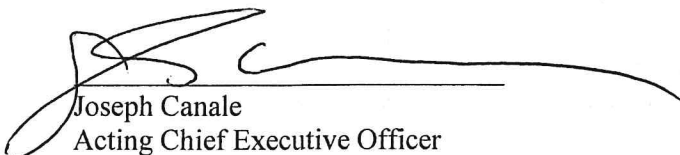
- Visitors will be provided a screening form with questions related to medical symptoms. If the responses indicate that the visitor has medical symptoms, or has traveled outside of the state of New Jersey in the past 14 days, the visit will not be granted.
- Security staff will scan all visitors with 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 building's fresh air yard via transport van. One family will be transported at a time, which may result in minor delays.

Additionally,

- 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.
- Visits will be held in a secured, fenced in area outside. Visitors will not be granted access to any buildings except the Visitor's Center, where a restroom may be accessed.
- Visitation will be cancelled during inclement weather. The building secretary will notify you if your visitation is cancelled. Weather can change quickly, so there may be occasion when a visitor arrives on campus and finds out that visitation has been cancelled. Please check the weather forecast and err on the side of caution if traveling a distance.
- Visitors will need to bring their own face mask.
- 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.
- Bottled water will be provided to the patient and visitor during the visit.
- Visitors and patients are required to remain with their assigned patient/visitor. Visiting with other families/patients in the yard is not permitted.

While these rules may appear restricting and inflexible, please be aware that we are doing our best to keep you and your loved ones healthy during these difficult times. We understand how valuable your involvement is in the health and wellbeing of your loved ones, and have created this new program to foster your relationship.

Sincerely,



Joseph Canale  
Acting Chief Executive Officer

## **COVID 19 Restricted Outdoor Visitation Protocol**

In order to protect the health of our hospital and community, APH has initiated a limited patient visitation plan.

We understand the importance that the support of loved ones plays on patient recovery and treatment. We ask that patients and families continue remote communications through telephone and video as a primary method of communication during this period of pandemic response; however, the following restricted visitation plan will be instituted effective July 8, 2020 until further notice:

Daily patient visitation hours are limited to 06:00 p.m. – 08:00 p.m. and will be held outdoors. Check in will begin at 5:45 pm. No one will be permitted to check in after 7:30 .m.

Visits must be scheduled. Building Secretaries will pre-screen potential visitors for risks before recording in the visitor database. Individuals with risks and unscheduled visits will be prohibited. Visits will be scheduled with 15-minute increments in order to maintain social distancing standards. Visits will be canceled due to inclement weather. Notifications will be made by building secretary.

Two adult visitors per patient are permitted to visit daily. A total of eight families (16 visitors) per building are permitted daily in order to maintain social distancing standards.

Patients monitored on COVID 19 precautions may not receive visitors.

High risk individuals (older adults and individuals with underlying medical conditions) are strongly discouraged from visiting.

All visits will occur in a secured, fenced in area outside (Fresh air yards). Fresh air yards will be strictly for use by visitors from 6:00pm-8:00pm. Visitors will not be granted access to any buildings except for the Visitor's Center. Bathrooms will only be available at the Visitor Center and will be cleaned by housekeeping after use.

Visitors must report to the Visitor's Center at Poplar Hall for processing. Hand sanitizer will be available.

All visitors will be required to wear a mask, sign a visitation agreement, pass a temperature screening and be checked with a wand for contraband before being permitted on grounds. Failure to complete any of these processes will be cause for denial of visit.

Visitors will be transported to and from the building yards via transport van. One family (maximum 2 people) will be permitted on a van at a time. Vans will be cleaned before and after each transport.

Visitors will be granted access to the visitation yards through the outside gates. Guards assigned to each building will unlock and secure the gates after visitor entrance and exit. Two staff will be assigned to monitor each yard during visits. Staff is expected to continually move throughout the yard to monitor during visits.

Patients with gait instabilities and/or assistive devices are permitted to access the fresh air yard from the handicapped ramp outside of the fence. (Except Holly Hall) All other patients should access the yard from the stairwell inside the building.

A minimum of 6 ft. must be maintained throughout the visit. Visitors/patients may not comeingle with other visitors/patients. Physical contact will not be permitted during visits.

Bottled water will be provided to visitors and patients by the hospital. Food Service will deliver 30 bottles of ice water to each building with dinner for use during visitation. No food is permitted at this time.