

Section: UTMB On-line Documentation Subject: Infection Control & Healthcare Epidemiology Policies and Procedures Topic: 01.15 - Hospital Visitation	01.15 - Policy 2/20/2025-Revised 1982 - Author
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01.15 - Hospital Visitation

Purpose	To decrease transmission of communicable diseases from visitors to patients at UTMB
Audience	All employees of UTMB hospitals and clinics, contract workers, volunteers, and students
Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nursing staff shall discourage visitation by persons with any evidence of an acute infection. • Visitors shall be instructed on handwashing and other guidelines before they visit a patient in isolation. • Nursing personnel are responsible for instructing visitors and patients in proper isolation techniques and monitoring compliance with specified techniques. • Visitation may be restricted during an influx of community infection. • Visitation in specialty units, such as ICU, may increase the restrictions in order to care for the critically ill. • Visitors under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult other than the patient. In some units and during times of higher infection risks, additional precautions or restrictions may be implemented for visiting minors. • Overnight visitation is allowed at the discretion of the unit charge nurse based on patient need and/or request. Visitors of patients may be authorized to remain in public waiting areas overnight by the unit charge nurse.
Policy Cross Reference	01.19 – Isolation Precautions 01.17 – Prevention and Control of Influenza 01.21 – Tuberculosis (TB) Control Program 01.43 – Prevention and Control of Clostridium difficile Infections