

# COVID-19 Update

## April 20: Patient Vaccination Status, Inpatient Visitor Policy Update, and In-Person Meetings and Classes

*Today's issue includes an update on patient vaccinations as well as changes to the inpatient visitor policy at Northwestern Medicine hospitals, and an update on in-person meetings and classes.*

### PATIENT VACCINATION STATUS UPDATE

As of this week, patients age 16 and older are eligible to schedule vaccination appointments. All remaining established patients should receive invitations in the coming days. At this time, many vaccination appointments are available across the NM system. Patients can schedule an appointment by calling the **COVID-19 Vaccine Hotline at 312.694.6600**. An Epic order is no longer required to be able to schedule via the hotline.

Additional changes are being made in MyNM to allow any patient 16 or older to schedule an appointment. **Please continue to monitor the Patient Vaccine Toolkit on Physician Focus and NMI (login required) for updates.**

### INPATIENT VISITOR CHANGES

Changes were recently made to the inpatient visitor policies at all NM hospitals. Please note this revised visitor policy is now in place:

- One designated visitor at a time may be in a patient's room during visitor hours for inpatients not being treated for COVID-19. Additional visitors are allowed, but will need to wait in approved locations such as the cafeteria, their vehicle or outside the hospital. Inpatient waiting rooms remain closed.
- **Patients in labor** may have two support people, one of whom may be a doula, in their delivery room. **Two visitors at a time are allowed during visiting hours for patients who are postpartum.**

**For patients in delivery who test positive for COVID-19**, a partner who is asymptomatic may accompany the mother with no COVID-19 test required. The partner will be required to eat and isolate in the patient's room, and to wear a mask at all times, even while sleeping. If the partner is symptomatic, they will be asked to stay home.

Since companionship is important in the outpatient setting for patients who may need transportation or support if receiving a difficult diagnosis, exceptions to the no visitor policy can be made on a case by case basis.

We continue to regularly evaluate visitor restrictions at each NM facility. Please visit the [Visitor Restrictions Due to COVID-19 page at nm.org/visitors](#) for the most up-to-date visitor policies across all NM locations.

#### **IN-PERSON MEETINGS AND CLASSES AT NM**

The following guidelines apply to both administrative and clinical locations.

In-person, internal meetings can be scheduled without approval as long as:

- All participants, regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status, are masked.
- Fewer than 25 people are in attendance, and the conference room is less than 50% capacity.

Note: Attendees may sit closer than 6 feet as long as the capacity and masking requirements are followed.

- No food is served.

Meetings may be held outside, but masks are still required, and group sizes must meet Illinois and Chicago Public Health guidelines. Masks will continue to be required, regardless of vaccination status, until state and local mask mandates are lifted. All in-person meetings with more than 25 participants continue to require vice president approval.

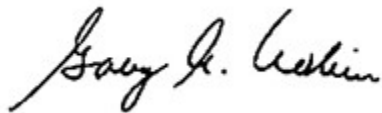
Events and classes with external participants, such as continuing medical education and community classes, remain limited to NM-sponsored programs that provide specific patient support and have approval.

As a reminder, vaccination status is considered protected health information. No physician or employee should be asked if they have been vaccinated for COVID-19.

For more information, visit the [On-Site Work Resources page](#) on the COVID-19 site on Physician Forum and [NMI](#).

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As we continue to accelerate our vaccination efforts, please remind your patients and colleagues that compliance with public health guidelines remains necessary. Thank you to all of the physicians and providers across NM for your continued commitment to our *Patients First* mission.



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