

# COVID-19 Update

## June 10: Capacity Restrictions Lifted, Business Travel, Inpatient Visitor Policy Updates and Vaccination Opportunities

*Today's issue features the lifting of capacity restrictions in Northwestern Medicine administrative spaces and the reinstatement of the Northwestern Medicine Business Travel Policy. It also provides updates to the inpatient visitor policies at all NM hospitals, as well as information about vaccination opportunities for physicians and staff.*

### **CAPACITY LIMITATIONS LIFTED IN NM ADMINISTRATIVE SPACES**

On Friday, both Chicago and Illinois will move to **Phase 5 of Restore Illinois**, lifting capacity limitations across the state. With this change, NM is updating several policies, effective Monday, June 14.

In administrative buildings and spaces in clinical buildings where there is no direct interaction with patients or visitors, NM is lifting A-B seating designations, capacity limits and meeting size restrictions.

Physicians and staff who are fully vaccinated can meet in person, without physically distancing or wearing masks. Individually packaged meals will also now be allowed during meetings. Those who are not fully vaccinated must continue to physically distance at meetings and mask when not eating.

### **Mask requirements**

While the move to Phase 5 lifts capacity restrictions in some areas, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to recommend **universal masking in all clinical areas and areas where staff interacts with patients and visitors** regardless of vaccination status. Additionally, all physicians, employees, patients and visitors must continue to complete **symptom attestation** prior to entering any NM facility.

For more information about PPE guidelines, please visit the PPE Resources page on **Physician Forum** and **NM Interactive** (login required).

### **BUSINESS TRAVEL POLICY**

NM is reinstating domestic and international business travel for those who are fully vaccinated. International travel requests will be considered based on reason and destination, as well as risk associated with the current state of COVID-19 in the destination country. All Northwestern Medical Group (NMG) and Regional Medical Group (RMG) physicians who are fully vaccinated

should submit requests for travel in accordance with standard process. Those who are not vaccinated will not be authorized to travel for NM business.

### INPATIENT VISITOR POLICY UPDATES

NM is also updating its inpatient visitor policies effective June 14, including:

- **Two designated visitors at a time may be in a patient's private room** during visiting hours for inpatients not being treated for COVID-19.
  - Each patient in a semi-private inpatient room is allowed one designated visitor.
  - Visiting hours are from 10 am to 8 pm.
- **Patients undergoing surgery are allowed one designated companion.**
- **Inpatient waiting rooms will reopen** with physical distancing and masking requirements.
- **Visitors will no longer need to be logged in Epic.**

Find additional details about the updated policies [here](#). For visitor policy changes at Marianjoy Rehabilitation Hospital, part of Northwestern Medicine, please view the [Marianjoy Visitor Restrictions](#).

NM visitor policies are always subject to change. Please visit the [Visitor Policy Updates page](#) at [nm.org/visitors](http://nm.org/visitors) for current policies and visiting hours at each hospital and outpatient facility.

### VACCINATION OPPORTUNITIES

Physicians, staff, volunteers and contractors still have the opportunity to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Both the Johnson & Johnson and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines are being offered throughout NM. Visit the [Workforce Vaccination Information](#) page on Physician Forum or [NMI](#) (login required) for details about scheduling and hours.

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After many challenging months, Illinois has reached an important milestone in the pandemic. Thanks to the hard work of our physicians and many other individuals across our health system we will begin the process of returning our lives to normal. In order to keep the momentum moving forward, please continue to follow the public health guidelines in clinical locations and encourage your patients to get vaccinated.



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