



NANTUCKET COTTAGE HOSPITAL

MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL AFFILIATE

In light of the spread of COVID-19 infections in the United States as well as the reported cases in Massachusetts, Nantucket Cottage Hospital is taking measures to minimize traffic and potential exposure in our hospital in order to reduce the risk to our patients and staff.

Effective immediately, no visitors will be allowed into any inpatient or outpatient area at Nantucket Cottage Hospital, including the physician clinic. Policies for patients arriving at our Emergency Department and physician clinic will allow for minors to be accompanied by one parent. For adults arriving at our Emergency Department and the physician clinic, one adult visitor will be allowed into the waiting area. No visitors, other than an adult accompanying a minor, will be allowed into the treatment areas of the Emergency Department or the physician clinic.

The Labor and Delivery Unit will allow for one birthing partner only. In specific circumstances, exceptions will be made on a one-to-one basis such as a patient in need of a medical guardian/decision-maker. Patients and families are encouraged to discuss any special requirements with a member of our patient care staff.

As a precaution, we will also be restricting access to the hospital dining area and cafeteria to staff only.

“While there have been no cases of COVID-19 infections on the island and risk remains low for our community at this point, we have an obligation to minimize the risk to our patients and to our staff. We feel it is vitally important to protect our patients and our workforce so that they can be ready and available to provide care to our community,” said Gary Shaw, President and CEO of Nantucket Cottage Hospital.

In addition, Nantucket Cottage Hospital is restricting access to the hospital of all non-essential personnel, such as vendors, outside contractors, students and volunteers. This includes the cancellation of all meetings and conferences in which individuals from outside organizations would be present.

At this time, all outpatient testing and scheduled procedures are continuing without interruption, and our clinical team is evaluating whether certain cases or treatments should be rescheduled for patients most at risk, including senior citizens.

Nantucket Cottage Hospital will continue monitoring and evaluating the situation and will continue to act in the best interest of our patients and employees. We ask for your understanding and cooperation.