



## **For Immediate Release**

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### **Navicent Health Enhances Visitor Restrictions to Essential Visitation Only** *Health System Committed to Proactively Protecting Central Georgians from COVID-19*

**MACON, GA (Tuesday, March 24, 2020)** – In its continued response to protect patients, visitors and healthcare providers from the spread of novel coronavirus (COVID-19), Navicent Health is enhancing its visitation policy. Effective Wednesday, March 25, 2020 only one (1) essential visitor will be permitted into Navicent Health facilities.

Essential visitor is defined as those who are visiting/accompanying the following patients:

- Minor patients under the age of 18
- Patients in labor and delivery and/or family birth centers
- Patients in intensive care
- Patients at end of life/in Hospice /Palliative Care
- Patients who need a healthcare decision maker or visitor to help with communication and/or mobility

Essential visitors must continue to adhere to the following guidelines;

- Patients in Hospice, Palliative, Pediatric units and Birth Centers may have one (1) visitor overnight.
- Visitors under the age of 13 are not permitted, including for the birth of a sibling.

The enhanced visitation policy applies to all Navicent Health locations, including:

- Beverly Knight Olson Children’s Hospital, Navicent Health
- The Medical Center, Navicent Health
- Medical Center of Peach County, Navicent Health
- Navicent Health Baldwin
- Rehabilitation Hospital, Navicent Health
- Monroe County Hospital, Navicent Health Partner
- Putnam General Hospital, Navicent Health Partner

All facilities may be accessed through their main lobbies and/or emergency centers. Individuals with cough, fever, shortness of breath or other flu-like symptoms are asked to refrain from visiting. Greeters at public entrances will continue to ask basic screening questions including temperature monitoring, guiding those seeking treatment to the appropriate location while assisting essential visitors as needed.

Navicent Health recognizes that interacting with loved ones can be helpful to the healing process and strongly encourage everyone to utilize other forms of support for their loved ones, including phone calls and video chats on cell phones or other mobile devices. Patients have access to Wi-Fi to assist with mobile communication.

The health of our patients and the community is the highest concern at Navicent Health. Our policies and actions are designed to safeguard our community. We appreciate the community's cooperation and understanding with our efforts to mitigate the threat of COVID-19.

For the latest information on Navicent Health's response to COVID-19, including our visitation policy, please visit [www.navicenthealth.org](http://www.navicenthealth.org).

### **About Navicent Health**

Navicent Health, the leading provider of healthcare in central and south Georgia, is committed to its mission of elevating health and wellbeing through compassionate care. Providing more than 1,000 beds and offering care in 53 specialties at more than 50 facilities throughout the region, Navicent Health provides care for healthcare consumers' through an academic medical center; community, pediatric and rehabilitation hospitals; urgent care centers; physician practices; diagnostic centers; home health; hospice and palliative care; and a life plan community. Navicent Health is dedicated enhancing health and wellness for individuals throughout the region through nationally recognized quality care, community health initiatives and collaborative partnerships. For more information, please visit [www.navicenthealth.org](http://www.navicenthealth.org).

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