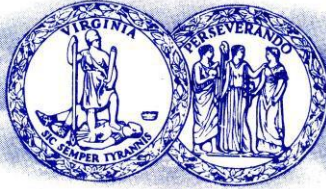


COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA



Charles C. Law, PhD
Facility Director/CEO

Karl W. Northwall, MD
Medical Director/COS

**Department of Behavioral Health
And Developmental Services
CATAWBA HOSPITAL**

POST OFFICE BOX 200
CATAWBA, VIRGINIA 24070
(540) 375-4200
(540) 375-4385 V/TDD

June 8, 2022

With increased COVID-19 vaccinations, DBHDS state operated facilities continue to see a decline in outbreaks and cases. As such, DBHDS has updated its visitation guidance accordingly, while including the most up to date guidance from the CDC. At this time, our hospital can now change our visitation practices from restricted to limited. Limited means that visitors are permitted, however, in an effort to meet health and safety precautions, modifications have been made to normal visitation practices. Limited visitation may begin at our facility immediately and will be very similar to our practices in the spring when we re-implemented visitation at that time. Although visitation is resuming at this time, we will continuously monitor the situation and will not permit visitation in the case of an outbreak at Catawba Hospital or as directed by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH). To clarify and for the purposes of visitation, an outbreak is defined by VDH as two or more lab-confirmed cases associated with a facility.

Additional specific guidance includes, but isn't limited to the following:

- Per DBHDS policy requirements, each patient may designate 2 family members or friends to be on their visitation list. Changes to this list will only be permitted once every thirty (30) days. Each patient's Authorized Representative (AR) is automatically one of the two visitors.
- Social work will maintain a list of designated visitors and will contact those individuals regarding requirements for visitation.
- Visitors will call the switchboard to schedule their visit as visiting areas and times will be limited. The switchboard will have the list of approved visitors from Social Work.
- All visitors will be screened at the time of entry for COVID-19 utilizing a questionnaire based on CDC and VDH recommendations.
- Visitors who screen positive based on the questionnaire, or who have a positive viral test for COVID-19, or who have symptoms of COVID-19, or currently meet the criteria for quarantine will not be permitted to enter the hospital.
- All visitors are required to wear a mask both indoors and outdoors during the duration of the visit, regardless of vaccination status.
- Visitors who are unable or unwilling to comply with these requirements (screening, face coverings, hand hygiene, maintaining social distancing, and limiting physical contact) may be restricted from visitations.
- Due to infection control purposes, visitors are not permitted to bring food, share food during the visit, or bring any items without prior specific approval from facility staff.
- If the patient is on any transmission based precautions or isolation, visitation will not be permitted.
- Pre-approved items brought in by visitors will be sent to the unit for screening and to ensure the items are permitted.
- Patients with appropriate safety levels will be allowed to visit in the lobby or on grounds. The fresh air break area behind the hospital and visiting rooms on patient units may also be reserved through the Switchboard.
- Virtual visits may also be arranged by clinical staff.

Catawba leadership along with Infection Control continue to collaborate in an effort to keep all staff and patients healthy and safe. Please rest assured that daily assessments are conducted to determine any actions needed. Visitation may cease at any time if it is determined that there is a risk to the health or safety of our staff or patients. We appreciate your patience and support during the course of this process. We look forward to the added support family and friends will be able to offer our patients during this time.

David Snodgrass

David Snodgrass, Infection Control Practitioner

Danielle Morgan

Danielle Morgan, Quality/Risk Management Director