



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services

April 27, 2021

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Limited Visitation at Western State Hospital

In alignment with the CDC and the State of Virginia COVID 19 Pandemic Declarations, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services has issued guidelines to the facilities that allow for the implementation of limited visitation since the COVID Pandemic began. DBHDS asserts that the state operated facilities continue to remain at high risk for outbreaks and as such, facility visitation practices will remain limited. Western State Hospital protocols are based upon those guidelines and are in unity with the continuing necessity for infection control and prevention measures to maintain the safety of our patients and staff.

- WSH will continue the limited visitation we have already been approving on a case by case basis for people who are associated with patient discharges as well as attorneys who represent our patients. This change in visitation is meant more for family and friends.
- WSH will continue the virtual communications with family and friends.
- WSH will initially begin limited visitation with patients on extended care units, many of which have been fully vaccinated
- Per DBHDS policy requirements, patients will choose 2 family members or friends to be designated as approved visitors
- As a condition for visitation designated family members/friends will be verbally screened (includes temperature measurement) for COVID prior to each visit.
- Coordination of limited visitation will be the responsibility of treatment teams. Please contact the unit treatment team to schedule visitation in the courtyard (weather permitting) or alternatively in the main lobby.
- WSH hopes to extend limited visitation to patients housed on admission units in the future. Please watch for updates.

Please understand that visitation may cease at any time if there is any outbreak of COVID in the hospital or as directed by Virginia Department of Health due to locally high COVID positivity rates.

The pandemic has been a long, arduous challenge. We hope this will provide some relief and comfort for our patients and their families and that this is the systematic beginning to the road back to 'normal.'

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan C. Anderson'.

Jonathan C. Anderson, M.D.
Facility Director/CEO