

The Joint Commission supports family presence in health care during adverse conditions

Prompted by the COVID-19 outbreak, health care organizations across the globe have instituted health and safety restrictions to slow the spread of the infection and its threat to those who are most susceptible to the virus.

Health care and other essential staff continue to work around the clock —many risking their own health in adverse conditions —to care for people affected by the coronavirus. However, many of the stringent safety measures established to mitigate the risks of contagion have unintentionally caused patients, staff, and care partners to suffer isolation, hardship, and emotional vulnerability when compassionate care is most needed.

The Joint Commission was one of many organizations that contributed to the development and endorsed the [Person-Centered Guidelines for Preserving Family Presence in Challenging Times](#), issued on May 28, 2020, and updated Aug. 13, 2020. These guidelines to preserve family presence across the continuum of health care during challenging times — such as the current pandemic— were recommended by the

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