



A community partner of YaleNewHavenHealth

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Day Kimball Hospital Maternal Child Health Unit Expands Visitation Restrictions**

PUTNAM, CONN. (Mar. 26, 2020) – As Day Kimball Healthcare (DKH) continues its efforts to contain the spread of the coronavirus disease COVID-19 in the community, it is implementing expand visitation restrictions to the Maternal Child Health (MCH) Unit at Day Kimball Hospital.

Many Connecticut hospitals are seeing an influx of patients to their labor units from other regions. These patients are seeking the ability to bring a support person to their own delivery. For many services, these patients are presenting from high risk regions such as New York City, where the support person has now been banned from the delivery room.

“This practice pattern raises many concerns,” said John Graham, MD, Chief Medical Officer and Vice President of Quality and Medical Affairs, Day Kimball Healthcare. “First, potentially higher risk patients may be traveling to our currently lower risk region with a greater risk of exposure for our patients and staff to COVID-19. In addition, there are various concerns with regard to continuity of care for these patients. Some patients may present unannounced to our labor unit, and our OB physicians have no knowledge of their medical condition or complications that may have occurred over the course of their pregnancy.”

Therefore, DKH has made necessary changes to its visitation policy on MCH. The most recent temporary visitation restrictions include:

- Patients must be a patient of the Day Kimball Medical Group (DKMG) OB/GYN practice to have a support person allowed with them on MCH.
- Patient visitors will be limited to one support person per patient.
- This support person will be screened for risk factors for COVID-19 and only allowed on the unit if deemed low risk.
- If a support person has risk factors, or shows symptoms of illness, DKH will ask that an alternate support person be identified, as this person will not be allowed on the unit.
- All support people will be asked to use alcohol based hand sanitizer prior to entering the unit, and then wash their hands again with soap & water upon entering the labor rooms.
- Children will not be allowed on the unit.
- If anyone presents to MCH for acute care who is not from the DKMG OB/GYN practice, they will still be cared for in standard fashion. However, their support person will not be allowed in the hospital.

To assist in this containment process, the DKMG OB/GYN practice will also be adjusting its current policy for new registrants of the OB service. Any new OB patient registering with the practice must currently reside (proof required) in Windham County, or the surrounding counties

of Tolland, New London (CT), Providence & Kent (RI), Worcester (MA). This policy does not affect currently registered patients of the practice.

“These are temporary measures put in place to limit exposure for our patients, newborns, as well as our staff,” said Dr. Graham. “These measures are subject to change at any time, and exceptions may be made for unique circumstances at the discretion of medical leadership. We understand this may be an inconvenience for many, but we believe this is a necessary step to promote the safety of our new mothers and children.”

*For the latest information, refer to the CDC website, [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) and the CT DPH website, [www.ct.gov/coronavirus](http://www.ct.gov/coronavirus). Local measures to contain the spread of the virus are available at Day Kimball Healthcare at [www.daykimball.org/coronavirus](http://www.daykimball.org/coronavirus), or call 2-1-1, the CT State Hotline for information.*

### **About Day Kimball Healthcare**

Day Kimball Healthcare is a nonprofit community healthcare system comprised of Day Kimball Hospital, Day Kimball Hospital, Day Kimball Medical Group, Day Kimball Healthcare At Home, and healthcare centers in Danielson, Dayville, Plainfield, and Putnam. Its service area includes Northeast Connecticut as well as nearby Massachusetts and Rhode Island communities. Day Kimball Healthcare’s comprehensive network offers more than 1,000 staff including nearly 300 associated, highly skilled physicians, surgeons and specialists. Its website is [www.daykimball.org](http://www.daykimball.org).

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