



A community partner of YaleNewHavenHealth

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Temporary Visitation Restrictions at Day Kimball Hospital**

PUTNAM, CONN. (Mar. 13, 2020) – Day Kimball Healthcare (DKH) is taking every necessary precaution to minimize the spread of the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

As part of its comprehensive preparedness strategy, the health system has implemented temporary visitation restrictions to limit foot traffic at Day Kimball Hospital and encourages community members to avoid coming to the hospital for non-medical reasons.

“Our top priority at Day Kimball is the health and wellness of our patients, staff, and community,” said John Graham, MD, Chief Medical Officer and Vice President of Quality and Medical Affairs, Day Kimball Healthcare. “We understand how important the support of loved ones and friends is to patients during their hospital stay. At the same time, the new coronavirus requires us to temporarily adjust our visiting policy in order to keep our patients and visitors safe from infection.”

To protect patients, visitors and staff, effective Monday, March 16, 2020, Day Kimball Hospital will not allow visitors for adult inpatients. During this time the following exceptions will be observed:

- Obstetric inpatients will be allowed one designated accompanying adult person, age 18+ during their stay.
- Pediatric operating room patients will be allowed only two designated accompanying adults, age 18+ during their stay.
- Adult operating room patients will be allowed only one accompanying adult, age 18+ during their stay.
- Emergency Department patients will be allowed one designated accompanying adult, age 18+.
- Hospice patients will be allowed visitors at the discretion of nursing leadership.
- Patients with outpatient testing and procedures will be allowed one accompanying adult, age 18+.

All accompanying persons will be screened for risk factors for COVID-19, and only permitted in the hospital if deemed low risk. If an accompanying person has risk factors, or shows symptoms of illness, an alternate person must be identified, as this person will not be allowed in the hospital.

These temporary visitation restrictions will remain in effect until further notice. Exceptions to this visiting policy will be made in very limited circumstances at the discretion of DKH medical leadership.

“We appreciate the community’s understanding and support as we take these additional precautions to help prevent the spread of coronavirus in our community,” said Dr. Graham.

DKH continues to follow the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the CT Department of Public Health and has implemented a comprehensive coronavirus care protocol. The health system’s medical and administrative leaders meet daily to promote system readiness.

DKH is not currently treating any patients with confirmed 2019 novel coronavirus.

As always, the health system encourages residents to take preventive steps such as frequently washing their hands, avoiding touching their face, and staying home if sick.

For the latest information, read more on the CDC website, [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov), and the CT DPH website, [www.ct.gov/coronavirus](http://www.ct.gov/coronavirus).

Learn more about measures Day Kimball Healthcare is taking to address the spread of coronavirus at <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).