

**** UPDATE TO PATIENT VISITOR POLICY (Effective March 23, 2020) ****

Dear Patients,

I am writing to share that we are taking further difficult steps to limit our patient visitation policy due to the growing international coronavirus outbreak. We recognize the deep distress such restrictions cause. However, our number one priority must be protecting your health and safety, as well that of your NIH healthcare providers.

As of Monday, March 23, 2020, the NIH Clinical Center will not be allowing any visitors to patients, except under the following circumstances:

- **Patients under age 18 may have one visitor, parent, or guardian.**
- **Patients who are at the end of life may have two visitors.**
- **Patients undergoing surgery/procedures may have one visitor. However, the visitor is expected to leave the hospital as soon as possible after the surgery/procedure.**

(Visitors permitted under these limited exceptions must remain in the patient room for the duration of the visit. Further, such excepted visitors who display symptoms during our screening process, such as a fever or cough, will not be permitted to proceed further into the NIH Clinical Center.)

Please know we reach decisions on limiting visitation only after closely consulting with leading experts here at NIH and across the nation. Also, we are engaged in ongoing discussions with a number of hospitals more experienced in dealing with CoVID-19 than we are. We are constantly assessing this extraordinary situation with your best welfare foremost in mind.

I truly thank you for abiding by this new visitor policy to help us safeguard against the rapidly evolving threat from the coronavirus. And, thank you for your understanding.

If you have any questions or concerns that you wish to discuss, please contact me at James.Gilman@nih.gov

Sincerely,
Dr. Jim Gilman
NIH Clinical Center CEO