



For Immediate Release

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Cook Children's Medical Center to Restrict Inpatient Visitation Beginning Monday

Change in Response to Growing Number of COVID-19 Cases in Tarrant County

Fort Worth, Texas - With the rise in local COVID-19 cases, Cook Children's Medical Center is changing its inpatient visitor policy to reduce the risk of transmitting the virus on campus. Beginning Monday, Nov. 16 at 5 a.m., only one primary caregiver will be allowed per patient inside the medical center. Siblings and other visitors will not be allowed. This rule was in place from March through Oct. 1. Due to substantial community spread of the virus, we are reverting to this policy.

Cook Children's is currently experiencing the highest number of infected children on a daily basis since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The seven day rolling positivity rate is 8.3%, up from an average of 5% seen in recent months. This reflects an increase in the total number of patients testing positive for COVID-19 across Cook Children's Medical Center, primary care and urgent care locations. In addition, there are currently 8 confirmed COVID-19 patients at Cook Children's Medical Center.

These high numbers, along with the increasing COVID-19 cases seen across Tarrant County, force us to make the difficult decision to limit the number of people on our campus in order to keep our patients, families and employees as safe as possible.

"We know these measures greatly impact our patient families and mean missed moments between parents and children," said Stan Davis, Chief Operating Officer at Cook Children's. "This decision was not made lightly, and was determined to be necessary given the circumstances surrounding the rapid spread of COVID-19 in our community."

Medical Director of Infectious Diseases, Suzanne Whitworth, M.D., added, "We ask everyone to please wear a mask, practice social distancing and avoid large gatherings. We need the support of the community to lower the spread of COVID-19 and protect all those we care for. We can't do it without you."

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About Cook Children's

Cook Children's Health Care System embraces an inspiring Promise – to improve the health of every child in our region through the prevention and treatment of illness, disease and injury. Based in Fort Worth, Texas, we're proud of our long and rich tradition of serving our community.

Our not-for-profit organization encompasses nine companies – a medical center, two surgery centers, a physician network, home health services and a health plan. It also includes Child Study Center at Cook Children's, Cook Children's Health Services Inc., and Cook Children's Health Foundation. With more than 60 primary, specialty and urgent care locations throughout Texas, families can access our top-ranked specialty programs and network of services to meet their unique needs.

We've worked to improve the health of children from across our primary service area of Denton, Hood, Johnson, Parker, Tarrant and Wise counties for more than 100 years. Based on the exceptional care we provide, patients travel to Cook Children's from around the country and the globe to receive life-saving pediatric care built on leading technology, extraordinary collaboration and the art of caring.

For more information, visit cookchildrens.org.

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