



St. Luke Visitation Guidelines – Updated

To protect patients from the H1N1 flu virus, St. Luke's Boise/Meridian Medical Centers, St. Luke's Magic Valley Medical Center, and St. Luke's Wood River Medical Center have implemented new guidelines for visitors.

St. Luke's Boise and St. Luke's Meridian

Restrictions are in place for this specialized unit:

- **Newborn intensive care (NICU)**

Visitation will be limited to only parents and grandparents of patients.

St. Luke's Magic Valley and St. Luke's Wood River

- **Magic Valley Mother Baby Unit:** Visitation will be limited to spouses/labor support person/legal guardians, and grandparents.
- **Wood River Mother Baby Unit:** Visitation will be limited to spouses/labor support person/legal guardians, grandparents, and siblings of the new baby only; *no other young children.*
- **Magic Valley NICU:** Visitation will be limited to parents/legal guardians only.
- **Other Magic Valley and Wood River Patient Care Units:** Visitation will be limited to only visitors who are over 18, with a limit of two visitors per patient.

St. Luke's normally enacts stricter visitation policies for the seasonal flu season, which typically lasts from December through April. But this year, given the growing number of H1N1 flu cases, and uncertainty about when the H1N1 vaccine would be available, the decision was made to enact policies earlier.

The above policy is a precaution to better protect St. Luke's patients. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), children are one of the populations at most risk to contract the H1N1 virus. The virus can also be contagious up to two days prior to the onset of symptoms, making it even more critical to limit access to these hospital units.

The above policy will remain in effect until further notice.

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