

New Security Measures

Sentara Martha Jefferson will implement two additional measures to further strengthen our security protocols. On **Tuesday, March 21, 2023**, we will launch our new Visitor Badging System (VBS). We will also begin securing the main lobby doors overnight at 9:00 pm every evening.

As a result, our night security team will be able to circulate throughout the hospital, enhancing overnight security within the building.

What does overnight door closure mean for overnight maternity patients?

A video call box has been installed at our main entrance doors to serve our overnight maternity patients better. Once the front doors close at 9:00 pm, any maternity patient seeking access can utilize the call box to be instantly connected to our security staff, who can allow admission to the building.

Our maternity visitation is not changing.

While in labor at SMJH, you may designate three primary support people, who will receive special wristbands, allowing them 24/7 access to support you throughout labor and delivery. At SMJH, doulas are included in this total.

Family and friends are welcome to visit you in our postpartum and women's services unit unless we are told otherwise. For the safety of you and our other patients, only one primary support person may stay with you overnight. Your visitors must check in at the front desk of our secure unit, where a team member will contact you in your hospital room to verify that you are currently ready for visitors. Visitors under 12 must always be supervised by an adult other than the patient. Children whose behavior is disruptive will be asked to leave.

What is changing: If an overnight visitor must leave the hospital after 9:00 pm, they must go through the Emergency Department to regain access.

Thank you for your patience and understanding of these new policies. Sentara hospitals are seeking the balance between being welcoming and being safe. Visitor badging has been shown to reduce violence against staff and limit opportunities for theft of personal items from patients or employees.

The first Sentara Commitment to our patients is to 'Always keep you safe.' This includes quality care and a safe healing environment. Visitor badging is one tool to help us keep that promise.

Reminder, if you have an extreme emergency, please go to your nearest emergency room or dial 911 for assistance.

[SentaraMJHmaternity.com](https://www.SentaraMJHmaternity.com)