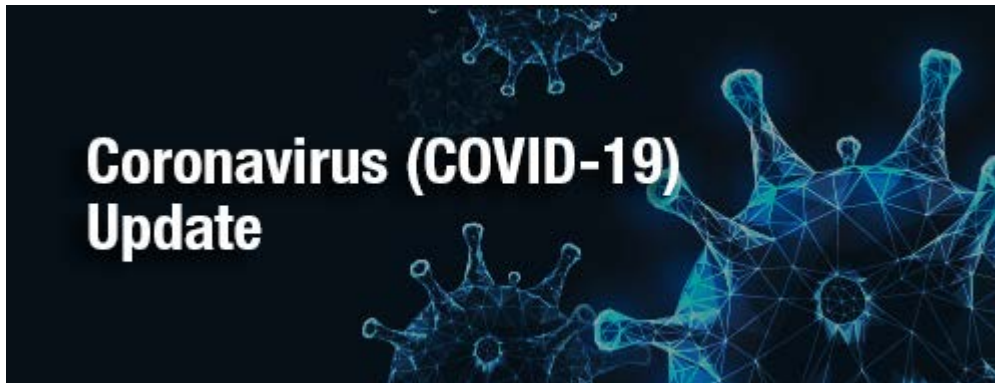


**Subject:** Coronavirus Update #11

**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2020 8:17 PM

**From:** Wendy Bringas On Behalf Of Bo Boulenger

**To:** DG-BHSF Everyone; DG-BT Everyone Automated; BRRH Everyone



Ladies and Gentlemen,

At this time, our incident command remains at Level 2 (Partial Activation). We are closely following the latest developments and guidance from public health officials and Baptist Health executive leadership is in constant communication as we work to serve our community during this challenging time.

Like many health care systems, Baptist Health is seeing an increase in the number of cases that meet the Florida Department of Health's criteria for testing for COVID-19. We've seen the number of confirmed cases in Florida continue to grow daily, and we have had some positive cases throughout our system. We are following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) guidance in caring for these patients. Some patients are able to self-quarantine, and others may need additional care, according to their condition.

### **Testing**

The CDC has updated its guidance for screening patients with suspected COVID-19. The updated screening tool [can be found here](#). Of note, while we continue to follow the CDC's screening criteria, we no longer have to contact the Florida Department of Health to approve testing. If the patient meets criteria, we can now collect the specimen and send it either to the DOH or to a private lab for testing. We will be preferentially sending specimens received at the hospitals to the private labs to expedite turnover. Patients should only be tested when it is clinically appropriate to do so.

### **Students**

Effective today, student rotations and observer programs at all Baptist Health facilities will be suspended until further notice. Scholar Nurse Partners from Barry and Nova will be scheduled for approved per-diem employed shifts, as needed. This restriction is **not** applicable to residents and fellows in graduate medical, pharmacy and nursing education programs who will continue to provide care as needed and within their scopes.

### **Care On Demand**

In addition, we are now offering Care On Demand FOR FREE with the code CARE19. Our online caregivers are prepared to follow the appropriate CDC protocols and can answer questions regarding COVID-19, evaluate a patient's risk and provide support to relieve symptoms. Telehealth is a valuable

tool in helping to prevent the spread of the virus. [Click here](#) for more information. Please share information about Care On Demand and the code CARE19 with your friends and family.

As we continue to do everything we can as a healthcare organization to ensure the health and well-being of our community, we as individuals have the ability and responsibility to protect ourselves and those around us. First and foremost, please stay home if you are sick. That is the best course of action in order to prevent others from getting sick. In addition, one of the many ways we can provide compassionate care to each other and our patients and families is by using common sense measures for handwashing and following social distancing guidelines.

Thank you for everything that you are doing to care for our community and for each other. As we continue to navigate this challenging and fluid situation, the collective work of everyone across the organization is a source of strength and hope for all. We truly appreciate your dedication and commitment.

Thank you,

**Bo Boulenger**

Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer

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