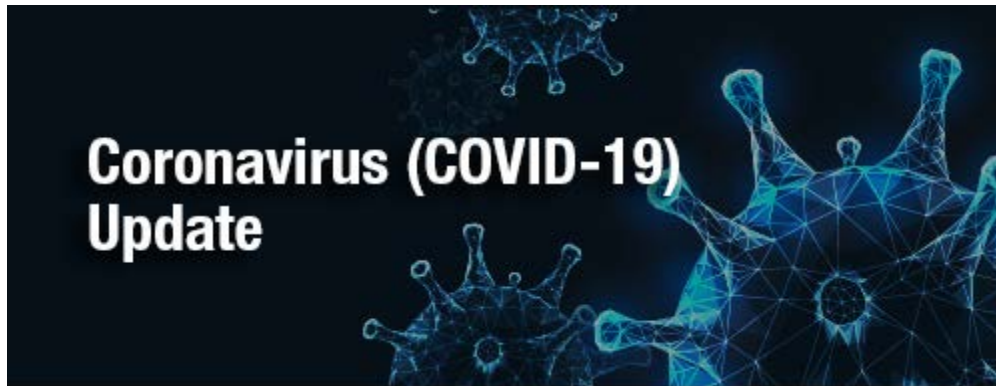


Subject: Coronavirus Update #13

Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2020 6:59 PM

From: Bo Boulenger

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



Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the COVID-19 situation evolves, we continue to follow guidance from our public health authorities and adapt our internal guidance accordingly. Below are some updates:

Personal Protective Equipment

Surgical Masks: We continue to pursue every option for sourcing PPE supplies. While we continue to follow the CDC's guidelines for PPE usage in general, due to the increased prevalence of COVID-19 in our patient population and to help prevent person-to-person spread among our patient-facing employees, we will be expanding the distribution and use of **surgical masks** (levels 1-3, also known as procedure masks) beyond the current CDC guidelines (this does not apply to N95 masks). Beginning on Friday, we will be offering surgical face masks to each employee who works in a clinical environment (two masks per 7 day period, keep them dry). **These surgical masks for personal use do not preclude the need to use specific PPE for patient encounters, which will still be available.** Each entity will be developing plans, which will be shared with you soon, for the distribution of these surgical masks. It is important for us to continue to manage our supplies carefully because this is a long journey and we need to ensure that we're able to maintain our supply in light of the ongoing global shortage. Should the shortages be overcome, we would provide masks on a more frequent basis. We will continue to provide guidance on PPE use as the situation evolves.

Training: updated training material for the use of PPE will be available tomorrow on BHU and LMS (for Boca staff).

COVID-19 Testing and Therapies

There continues to be a nationwide shortage of swabs for COVID-19 testing. As a result, testing should be limited to the following:

- Patients who are symptomatic and meet testing criteria.
- Employees being quarantined who need to return to work.
- Patients who need to be discharged back to a skilled nursing facility.

There is also a shortage of therapies that are being utilized, though unproven, to treat COVID-19 patients and of many standard pharmaceuticals. It is prudent to reserve these therapies for use in patients who may benefit.

Hope Tower at Baptist Hospital

The Hope Tower, a new bed tower at Baptist Hospital, opened its 48-bed Critical Care Unit yesterday. The unit opened a few weeks early to allow for additional capacity for non-COVID-19 ICU patients. Twenty patients were moved from the current ICU in the hospital to the new unit.

Students

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

Donations

Many people have asked how to help, and we truly appreciate their generosity. To protect our patients, caregivers and communities from the spread of COVID-19, we are not able to accept any drop off donations of toys, blankets, food or other items at this time. Please ask community members who would like to help to consider a donation to our Foundation's COVID-19 emergency relief fund. You can find [more information here](#).

Pastoral Care

The Baptist Health Employee Sunshine Fund is available to assist with pandemic-specific financial hardship through interest-free loans. For additional information and to submit loan applications, please contact your nearest Pastoral Care office between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Employees from **Bethesda and Boca Regional hospitals** should apply at the Pastoral Care office at Baptist Hospital. Employees from **Mariners and Fishermen's Community Hospitals** should apply at the Pastoral Care office at Homestead Hospital. Contact information for Pastoral Care application sites can be found below:

Baptist Hospital of Miami – 786-596-6577
South Miami Hospital – 786-662-5392
Doctors Hospital – 786-308-3800
West Kendall Baptist Hospital – 786-467-2895
Homestead Hospital – 786-243-8551
Miami Cancer Institute – 786-527-8845

We appreciate your ongoing commitment to each other and our patients as we continue to navigate complex challenges. We know the great sacrifices that everyone is making during this time. This current situation is testing all of us in new ways. Everyone's role is integral to our community as we work together to take care of people and help keep them safe.

We know together, we will get through this.

Thank you,

Bo Boulenger

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