

Subject: Coronavirus Update #15

Sent: Monday, April 1, 2020 5:05 PM

From: Bo Boulenger

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



Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis announced an executive order asking people across the state to stay home as the number of cases continues to grow. As we continue to work through this public health crisis, it's important to remember that we still have a number of weeks ahead of us in this journey. Collaboration within our organization and across our community is a source of strength that allows us to serve our patients.

Nicklaus Children's Hospital Partnership

Today, we announced a collaboration with Nicklaus Children's Hospital with the shared goal of optimizing our response to an anticipated regional surge of adult COVID-19-related hospital admissions.

Under the agreement, effective today, Baptist Hospital and Baptist Children's Hospital will transfer all children requiring inpatient admission to Nicklaus Children's Hospital in order to prepare for the predicted influx of COVID-19-associated adult hospitalizations. This makes hospital beds, staff and equipment available for adult patient care at Baptist Hospital.

Baptist Hospital and Miami Cancer Institute will continue to provide pediatric oncology services; Baptist Hospital, Homestead Hospital, South Miami Hospital and West Kendall Baptist Hospital will continue to provide neonatal intensive care (NICU) services; and Baptist Hospital, Doctors Hospital, Fishermen's Community Hospital, Homestead Hospital, Mariners Hospital, South Miami Hospital and West Kendall Baptist Hospital will continue to see pediatric patients in their emergency rooms. Any pediatric patients seen in the Baptist Health emergency departments in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties requiring hospital admission will be transferred to Nicklaus Children's Hospital.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

At this time, we have the supplies we need to take care of our patients and protect our employees, and our Supply Chain team is working hard to secure additional supplies. We do expect that the need for these supplies will continue to increase as the number of patients with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 increases. Because this is a rapidly changing situation, it is important that we utilize our limited supply of protective equipment appropriately in order to ensure that we are able to maintain our supply.

Throughout Baptist Health, we are following the guidance from the CDC regarding the use of personal protective equipment for all staff. That guidance can be found [here](#), and additional guidance is posted on our intranet. All staff who are caring for patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 are provided with the protective gear required to care for those patients. This includes gowns, eye protection, gloves, face masks and N95 respirators when indicated. We are following the CDC's guidance on optimizing the supply of personal protective equipment when appropriate, and we've put measures in place to carefully monitor and distribute these supplies.

Surgical Masks: All employees in clinical environments are provided with face masks (commonly known as surgical masks) to use when not encountering patients that require specific PPE in order to protect ourselves from one another. We are pleased to be able to accelerate this program, and we will be distributing additional face masks earlier than the original scheduled distribution. As a reminder, these surgical masks for personal use do not preclude the need to use specific PPE for patient encounters.

Homemade Masks: In order to protect our employees and patients, homemade masks are not allowed to be used in clinical environments at this time. All PPE in clinical environments must be FDA-approved and sourced by our Supply Chain team, in order to verify their safety.

COVID-19 Testing

There continues to be a nationwide shortage of swabs for COVID-19 testing. As a result, testing should be prioritized as follows:

- To ensure optimal care options for all hospitalized patients, lessen the risk of nosocomial infections, and maintain the integrity of the healthcare system
 - Hospitalized patients
 - Symptomatic healthcare workers
- To ensure that those who are at highest risk of complication of infection are rapidly identified and appropriately triaged
 - Patients in long-term care facilities with symptoms
 - Patients 65 years of age and older with symptoms
 - Patients with underlying conditions with symptoms
 - First responders with symptoms

We continue to send specimens to private labs for testing. Originally, most specimens were sent to LabCorp, which experienced very high volumes and turnaround times of 7-10 days. We are now able to use BioReference Laboratories to process tests. The turnaround time for BioReference Laboratories is 24-48 hours.

Finance

Department leaders can find guidance on the tracking and proper coding of COVID-19-related expenses on the COVID-19 page on our intranet.

Social Media

It is important to keep our privacy and social media guidelines always top of mind. Please remember that as an employee, you represent Baptist Health. Therefore, how you present yourself to our patients and community, both in-person and online, is a reflection on Baptist Health. Employees should be appropriate and respectful and should never disclose any protected health information or confidential business records or data. If you have any questions, please refer to the Social Media and HIPAA Privacy policies which can be found on the intranet, or contact your HR representative.

Thank you,

Bo Boulenger

Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer

Baptist Health South Florida

6855 Red Road | Coral Gables, FL 33143

Direct: 786-662-7572 | Main: 786-662-7111

Mark J. Hauser, MD, FACP, FCCP

President, Medical Staff Affairs

Baptist Health South Florida

6855 Red Road | Coral Gables, FL 33143

Direct: 786-662-7010 | Main: 786-662-7111