

**Subject:** Coronavirus Update #16

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**From:** Bo Boulenger

**To:** DG-BHSF Everyone; DG-BT Everyone Automated; BRRH Everyone; bocacareall@brrh.com



Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the number of cases of COVID-19 continues to grow in our community, the urgency, empathy and humanity that guides our work and our organization is a true sense of pride. The weeks ahead will continue to challenge us and our community in many ways. Below, please find some important updates on our response to the current crisis. As always, we thank you for your dedication and compassion to our patients and to each other.

#### **Laboratory Update/ In-House Testing**

We've received FDA approval to use the Molecular Diagnostic Lab at Miami Cancer Institute to run a test that will detect COVID-19 and are now able to run in-house tests on a limited basis. To begin, we'll be able to run tests two times per day (due to preparation time), and will have the capacity to process 48 tests during each run. All of these results should be back in less than 24 hours. We will start by using these tests for patients at Miami Cancer Institute and Baptist Hospital. As more supplies become available, we expect to be able to expand this capacity.

Tests not processed in-house are being sent to BioReference Laboratories. The turnaround time for BioReference Laboratories is 24-48 hours. We expect to have additional in-house testing capability soon, and we will keep you posted.

#### **Personal Protective Equipment Updates**

In accordance to the CDC's *Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of PPE*, the implementation of contingency and crisis capacity strategies can help stretch PPE supplies when shortages are anticipated. These strategies include the extended use/limited-reuse of N95 respirators, reprocessing of N95 respirators, and to supply caregivers who provide direct care to patients with known or suspected COVID-19 with other approved respirators that provide equal protection to N95s, such as reusable respirators, which include N99 respirators.

Contingency capacity strategy: In order to maximize our inventory of N95s, reusable N99 respirators are being provided to patient care areas with high use of N95 respirators. Similar to the N95 respirators, the N99 respirators are NEVER to be used by a patient. Please refer to the attached WINK for additional information.

Collection of disposable N95 Respirators: Reprocessing of N95 respirators may need to be implemented as a future crisis capacity strategy to ensure continued availability. Therefore, we are implementing collection of N95s at each entity following extended/limited reuse. Additional information will be provided.

### **Clinical Resource Webpage**

The Evidence-Based Clinical Care (EBCC) team has developed a **Coronavirus (COVID-19)** webpage for practitioners. The information on this page is being released and updated on a regular basis as more details become available regarding **COVID-19**. You will be able to find information on testing, treatment, and care of confirmed and suspected coronavirus patients. The page is accessible via any computer or mobile device:

[https://goebcc.baptisthealth.net/Documents/html/index\\_Covid.htm](https://goebcc.baptisthealth.net/Documents/html/index_Covid.htm)

### **Baptist HealthTalk Podcast**

As the coronavirus pandemic continues, the Baptist HealthTalk Podcast is a source to inform and empower you to get answers to the questions you may have. Host Jonathan Fialkow, M.D., and expert guests from across the system, answer the most frequently asked questions and address concerns in a conversational tone. You can download Baptist HealthTalk wherever you download your favorite podcasts, or click [here](#).

### **#PineappleProud + Strong**

Now more than ever, our employees throughout the organization are showing that they are not only #PineappleProud, they are #PineappleStrong. Because Baptist Health employees continually rise to the occasion in support of their colleagues, patients and the community, the #PineappleProud committee is helping to engage employees in recognizing one another and helping to spread kindness during this challenging and difficult time. [CLICK HERE](#) to check it out and get involved! ***We're All In*** for Kindness!

Thank you,

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