

Subject: Coronavirus Update #5

Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2020 2:40 PM

From: Wendy Bringas On Behalf Of Bo Boulenger

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

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Last night, President Trump and top U.S. health officials addressed the nation about the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). As we continue to closely follow the latest information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), I want to provide an update.

According to the CDC, there have been 15 confirmed cases of COVID-19 that were detected and tested in the United States (not including people who returned to the country via State-Department chartered flights). Of these, 12 are travel-related; two cases resulted from person-to-person transmission of the virus; and in one case, which was identified yesterday, the patient's exposure is unknown. Additionally, 45 Americans who have tested positive have been repatriated to the United States by the State Department— three from Wuhan, China, and 42 from a cruise ship that had been docked in Japan. Cases have been identified in a growing number of countries around the world including South Korea, Iran, Italy and Japan.

While the general risk to the American public remains low at this time, the CDC notes that current global circumstances suggest it is likely that this virus will cause a pandemic and, in that case, the risk assessment would be different. This is an evolving situation and we continue to follow the CDC's guidance to ensure we are taking all the measures necessary to protect our patients and our employees and their families.

Baptist Health will continue to provide the necessary personal protective equipment (PPE) for employees who are rendering direct patient care, including N 95 respirators for those with cases that require the use of specialized respiratory protection. Our policy for wearing respiratory protection, BHSF policy number 680.16, can be found on our intranet, under the policy administration management tab. Since Baptist Health needs to ensure there are adequate supplies available for employees who have direct patient contact, employees who do not have direct patient contact and choose to wear a mask may purchase them on their own online or from local retail pharmacies.

Globally, this outbreak has caused disruptions in supply chains across many industries including healthcare. Our supply chain leaders are continuing to monitor the situation and are working to identify alternative sources of any supplies that may be affected.

Employees, volunteers, students, contractors or members of the medical staff who are returning from travel to China or South Korea, or have been in contact with someone who is either suspected to have or confirmed to have COVID-19, must stay home and call Baptist Health's Occupational Health Office immediately at (786) 596-2345. To ensure a safe working environment for everyone, those who are returning from travel to China or South Korea (countries currently listed under Warning Level 3, per the CDC) will be removed from work for 14 calendar days and will need to receive clearance from Occupational Health before reporting to work. If you are returning from travel to Japan, Italy or Iran (countries currently listed under Alert Level 2, per the CDC) and are symptomatic, stay home and call Baptist Health's Occupational Health Office for further instructions. Please note that changes to this process may take place according to CDC and/or State Department recommendations, so please continue to pay close attention to all Baptist Health communications on the matter. You may also email EmployeeCVInfo@baptisthealth.net, a confidential inbox for employees' personal health concerns specific to coronavirus.

For the most up-to-date information on COVID-19, visit the [CDC website](#). In addition, CDC guidance for healthcare professionals can be found [here](#). This information is updated several times a week. You can also keep up to date about this topic by clicking on the banner on the Baptist Health intranet page, and on Baptist Health's [Resource blog](#).

I will continue to provide important updates with you as needed. Any other communication to employees, medical staff or the public about this issue must go through our Corporate Marketing & Communications Department and our Coronavirus taskforce leaders: Dr. Mark Hauser, Dr. John Braden, Faith Solkoff, Luis Collado and Anexis Lopez.

Thank you for your ongoing attention and cooperation.

Bo Boulenger
Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer