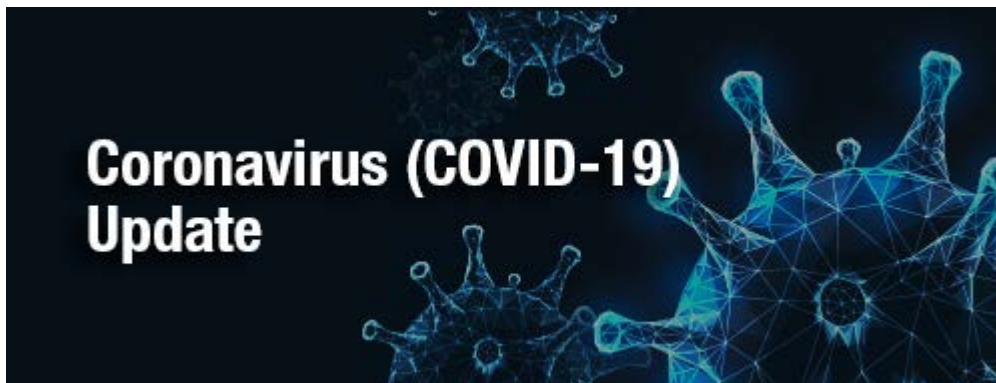


**Subject:** Coronavirus Update #7  
**Sent:** Friday, March 6, 2020 6:47 PM  
**From:** Wendy Bringas On Behalf Of Bo Boulenger  
**To:** DG-BHSF Everyone; DG-BT Everyone Automated



Ladies and Gentlemen:

As we continue to closely follow the latest on the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), we have decided to activate our emergency operations to a Level 3 activation. A Level 3 activation, which is the lowest level, means that we are monitoring and assessing the situation in collaboration with our own Emergency Preparedness Department, our BHSF COVID-19 Taskforce, the Florida Department of Health and others. All of your CEOs and other leaders are in constant communication to coordinate our efforts.

At this time, all of Baptist Health's operations and schedules are normal.

**Current Status:**

Florida now has four cases of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) confirmed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) from Manatee and Hillsborough counties. According to the Florida Department of Health, there are also five confirmed cases involving persons who are from Florida and are isolated out of state until healthy. As of today, there have not been any presumed positive cases in Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward or Palm Beach counties. We continue to closely follow the latest information from the [CDC](#), which says in areas where there are no reports of community spread, the immediate health risk from COVID-19 is considered low.

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):**

Following CDC guidance, Baptist Health will continue to provide the necessary personal protective equipment (PPE), including N95 respirators, for employees who are providing direct patient care. Staff who do not provide direct patient care should wear surgical masks provided by Baptist Health only when indicated, including staff that are exempted from the influenza vaccination.

Our Emergency Preparedness team, led by Luis Collado, is currently conducting "train the trainer" sessions on our updated PPE training and guidance for staff. The course material is now available online through Baptist Health University (BHU).

**Occupational Health Screening Process:**

Employees, volunteers, students, contractors or members of the medical staff who have been in contact with someone who is either suspected to have or confirmed to have COVID-19 or are returning from travel to **China, South Korea, Italy, Iran or Japan** ([countries included in the Level 3 & 2 Travel Health Notice, per the CDC](#)), must stay home and call Baptist Health's Occupational Health Office immediately at (786) 596-2345. Note: this number is for Baptist Health personnel only. All other members of the community with questions related to COVID-19 should call the Florida Department of Health COVID-19 Call Center at 1 (866) 779-6121.

To ensure a safe working environment for everyone, those who are returning from travel to the above named countries will be removed from work for 14 calendar days and will need to receive clearance from Occupational Health before reporting to work. Please note that any travel to countries listed on the CDC's Travel Health Notice is discouraged.

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](mailto:EmployeeCVInfo@baptisthealth.net), a confidential inbox for employees' personal health concerns specific to coronavirus.

#### **Care On Demand:**

Our online caregivers with Baptist Health Care On Demand are prepared to follow the appropriate CDC protocols and most recent process in place for COVID-19. The providers can answer any questions you have, evaluate your risk and provide support to relieve symptoms. For a limited time, we are offering online urgent care visits for \$20 (a savings of \$40 off the regular rate) with the code CARE19.

#### **Patient Privacy:**

As news about COVID-19 continues to evolve, we know that many in our community and around the country are anxious for additional information. It is important for us all to remember the importance of maintaining our patients' privacy and confidentiality. At no time should any matters relating to our patients be discussed outside of patient care. This is our obligation under HIPAA and privacy breaches will not be tolerated.

#### **Employee Resources:**

Resources for employees, including the latest guidance from the CDC and our updated WINKs can be found under the Coronavirus banner on our intranet. Next week, additional frequently asked questions for employees will be posted.

#### **Additional Resources:**

- For the most up-to-date information on COVID-19, visit [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)
- CDC guidance for healthcare professionals can be found [here](#)
- [Florida Department of Health](#)
- Baptist Health's [Resource blog](#)
- [BaptistHealth.net/Coronavirus](https://www.baptisthealth.net/coronavirus)

We encourage everyone to continue following common sense infection control measures such as frequent handwashing at work, at home and in the community.

Please share this message at staff meetings and with those who may not have regular access to email.

On behalf of Baptist Health and our Coronavirus taskforce leaders, Dr. Mark Hauser, Dr. John Braden, Faith Solkoff, Luis Collado and Anexis Lopez, thank you for your continued cooperation.

#### **Bo Boulenger**

Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer

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