

**From:** Wendy Bringas <WendyB@baptisthealth.net> on behalf of Bo Boulenger <BoB@baptisthealth.net>

**Date:** Thursday, December 3, 2020 at 5:33 PM

**To:** DG-BHSF Everyone <DG-BHSFEveryone@baptisthealth.net>, DG-BT Everyone Automated <DG-BTEveryoneAutomated@baptisthealth.net>, BRRH Everyone <BRRHEveryone@brrh.com>, BRRH-BocaCare All <BocaCareAll@brrh.com>

**Subject:** COVID-19- December 3

Dear Baptist Health Family,

Throughout this year, COVID-19 has tested us repeatedly and we have learned a lot in the process. Today, we know much more about the virus, how to prepare and respond as an organization, and the importance of everyone's combined efforts to help prevent the spread. We know we are going to be tested again over the coming weeks, and we are actively preparing as the number of cases continues to rise in our communities. I am confident in our team, our processes and our ability to care for our community.

Currently, we are caring for 334 patients who have tested positive or are suspected to have COVID-19. This is an increase of approximately 25% from last week.

### **COVID-19 Vaccine Update**

The news that a vaccine will be made available in the coming weeks is encouraging, and we expect that Baptist Health will receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for our staff soon. This process is being managed by the Florida Department of Health, and we are working closely with them to make sure that we are prepared to receive and distribute the vaccine once it is made available. It is likely that this will happen later this month, or early in January. The vaccine, which has been proven to be 95% effective, will be distributed and administered in phases by pre-determined groups on a voluntary basis, with priority given to high-risk groups according to guidelines set forth by [the CDC](#) and the Department of Health. All employees will receive additional information about the vaccine in the coming days.

### **Visitor Guidelines**

Through the challenges presented by COVID-19, we continue to put the safety of our patients, employees and visitors first. Across our facilities, visitor policies continue to be adjusted based on each facility's circumstance. We understand the importance of visitors to our patients' healing and appreciate the delicate balance involved in determining our visitor policies. New general guidelines that will help determine changes to our visitor policies will be shared next week.

With our focus on the health and safety of our staff and our patients, we are taking all the necessary measures to continue providing the highest level of care under any circumstances. Part of that is keeping you informed about the latest developments so that you can also inform your loved ones and those in the community.

I feel optimistic that hope is on the horizon in the form of a vaccine. Even with that good news, we all must continue to follow the safety precautions that we know help prevent the transmission of infections. Our individual acts of mask wearing, social distancing and frequent handwashing protect us and so many more around us.

We will get through this pandemic together by following evidence-based practices and by continuing to be patient with each other and supporting each other. Thank you for the compassion you bring to Baptist Health and to our community every day.

## **Bo Boulenger**

**Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer**

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