

Subject: COVID-19 Update – November 5

Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 4:58 PM

From: Bo Boulenger

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

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we pursue our meaningful work of caring for our community, we continue to hear news of COVID-19 spikes around the nation. This week, the media reported that the U.S. recorded more than 100,000 new cases in a single day. This increase is a concerning trend that we are monitoring very closely. Fortunately in our South Florida region, after a small increase in COVID-19 activity, we have seen our numbers remain relatively steady this week. We are currently caring for 153 patients who are COVID-19 positive or suspected to be positive. Our numbers of COVID-19 admissions and discharges have fluctuated recently and are in balance. To date we have discharged more than 7,000 patients who were treated for the virus.

Please continue to take precautions for your own health and wellbeing, and emphasize the importance of this with others. Together, we all need to continue the best practices for preventing the spread of COVID-19. As healthcare workers we are also in the position of being able to educate our friends and family about safety measures, the importance of not delaying care, and where to go to get testing and other types of care.

Testing Update

We are continuing to see large numbers of patients who are seeking testing at our urgent care centers. With the rapid antigen test, standard PCR test and antibody test available, volumes remain heavy.

We continue to look for ways to increase our internal PCR test capacity with various modalities in use across the system. For tests that need to be sent to external reference labs, we are receiving 85% of results within 72 hours.

Many thanks to all who are working hard to provide these very important services to our community.

Update on Cyber Threats

The Information Technology team continues to shore up Baptist Health's cyber defenses to protect our systems and data against the ransomware threat believed to be targeted against healthcare. Please remain hyper vigilant and follow basic security hygiene. Do not click on links or attachments contained in emails from unknown sources, especially when they are marked [External]. Never enter your username and password when prompted by a link within an external email. If the external email contains suspicious links, attachments, or prompts for passwords, forward it to SuspiciousMail@baptisthealth.net right away. To report any concerns, call the IT Rapid Response Center at 786-527-8977.

Tropical Weather Update

Our Corporate Emergency Management, Environmental Health & Safety Department is currently monitoring Tropical Depression Eta. Based on current forecast, South Florida may experience heavy rain and strong winds as early as Sunday in the Keys. Additional updates will be provided as needed.

New Intranet Coming Soon

Pineapple Connect, our new intranet, will launch on Monday, November 9. The new mobile-friendly site is being designed to keep us all connected with the information and tools you need to do your job, and timely content to keep you in the loop about what's happening around Baptist Health. You'll be able to see all updates related to COVID-19, updates from your entity leadership, HR information, news and more.

This year has been filled with uncertainty and many challenges, which naturally causes stress for many people. I encourage you to remain focused on the mission-critical services we provide and how much good you are contributing to our community. Our work is meaningful and brings hope and healing to many people when they need it most. It is so important to provide that care to yourself, too. If you are in need of support during difficult circumstances, please remember there are many tools and outlets available to you within Baptist Health. [Click here](#) to view those resources.

November is the month where we focus on gratitude. On behalf of our leadership team, please allow me to express our deepest appreciation for you and all that you do for our patients. Your worthwhile work impacts so many lives every day.

Bo Boulenger

Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer

6855 Red Road | Coral Gables, FL 33143

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

Email: bob@baptisthealth.net



Connect
BaptistHealthSF

