

Subject: COVID-19 Update - August 13

Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2020, 12:40 PM

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

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

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This week, we remain hopeful as we see an increase in the number of discharges of patients with COVID-19 and a decrease in admissions of patients who have tested positive or are suspected to be positive for COVID-19. We are currently caring for 457 patients with Covid-19 across our system. This sustained improvement is a 30 percent decrease in our case numbers from two weeks ago. To date, we have safely discharged nearly 5,000 patients since the beginning of the pandemic.

We are encouraged to hear community spread is slowing across the state as well, which is great news. There has been a strong push for the community to do its part in slowing the spread of the virus, and it is working. We will continue to emphasize the important message around mask usage and social distancing and appreciate your ongoing support in this effort.

While our overall case numbers are encouraging, our ICUs continue to be busy, and our caregivers are giving their best to care for our most critically ill patients. It is meaningful and emotional work, and we are continuously looking at ways to maintain additional staffing support for certain areas that are still experiencing high volumes. Our Human Resources and Operations teams are working together on staffing plans.

Recovery Update

Based on the current decline in the number of admissions of patients with COVID-19, we have begun our Recovery Task Force meetings again. This team will help to plan for how we will care for our patients in a new environment where COVID-19 remains a consideration, along with our normal operations. We know COVID-19 will be a consideration for a while, and we expect numbers to vary through the coming months, so we need to plan accordingly. Some of our processes and operations will change as circumstances change across our organization. In the short-term, some of our hospitals will begin expanding surgeries performed based on their specific situation and capability. We know receiving this care is important to our patients, and we are working to balance that need with our current circumstances.

Plasma Update

More than 750 patients have received convalescent plasma (plasma collected from people who have recovered from coronavirus) across Baptist Health. Antibodies present in recovered patients have lifesaving potential, helping boost a patient's immune system so that they can better fight the virus. We are partnering with OneBlood to promote the ongoing need for plasma donations and are encouraging potential donors to visit <https://www.oneblood.org/>.

Innovation

Masimo, the remote monitoring system we have in place at our Miami-Dade County Emergency Departments has enabled our transfer center and eICU staff to monitor the condition of 300 patients who have avoided admission or been safely discharged. This program, made possible through philanthropy, has been very successful and will soon expand to more of our hospitals.

Employee Screenings

As we continue our focus on the health and safety of our employees and patients, we are getting ready to go live on August 24 with the Workplace Passport employee screening tool. Please ensure that you have registered and downloaded the Virgin Pulse app if you have not already done so. [Click here](#) for instructions. More details, including an educational video, will be shared next week, and a list of frequently asked questions is accessible by [clicking here](#).

Thank you for your great work and ongoing support and flexibility as we constantly adjust to our changing circumstances and move in the right direction toward safely resuming more services while caring for patients with COVID-19. We will continue to rely on each other because our community relies on all of us.

With gratitude,

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