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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 Update - November 25

Dear Baptist Health Family,

The challenges of this year have underscored our longstanding commitment to caring for our community when it needs us most. This Thanksgiving, there is much to be thankful for as we look around at each other and reflect on our extraordinary teamwork and the compassionate care we are providing to our patients and their families throughout this pandemic.

There is also a lot to be hopeful for, with increasingly promising news about new COVID-19 treatments and a vaccine. We are working with state and local officials to plan for the distribution of the vaccine in the near future.

Currently, we are caring for 266 patients who have COVID-19 or are suspected to have the virus. This is an increase of 24 percent from a week ago and 34 percent from two weeks ago. COVID-19-related admissions outpace discharges on many days, and other days they are balanced. To date, we have discharged 7,698 patients who were treated for COVID-19.

COVID-19 Testing Update

While Baptist Health Urgent Care centers are providing various types of COVID-19 testing, a medical evaluation must first be performed to determine the best testing option for you. Please note: COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Tests are currently only available to those who are actively experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, based on your medical evaluation. To learn more, visit [BaptistHealth.net/CovidTest](https://www.baptisthealth.net/covidtest).

Staying Safe During the Holidays

According to the CDC, more than 1 million COVID-19 cases were reported in the United States over the last 7 days. As cases continue to increase rapidly across the United States, the safest way to celebrate Thanksgiving is to celebrate at home with the people you live with. Carefully consider your holiday plans in order to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and keep your family and friends safe as the number of COVID-19 cases continues to rise in our communities.

Celebrating through a virtual event or a small gathering with immediate family members in your household will reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19. Families need to be cautious with gathering with family or friends who do not live in the household, such as a college student returning home for the holidays, those living in different households or those traveling from out of town. Per the CDC, the size of the gathering should be based on the ability of the guests to effectively social distance (stay at least 6 feet apart), wear masks and wash hands. Host outdoor rather than indoor (open windows/doors or place central AC on continuous circulation) events when possible and avoid gathering in crowded or poorly ventilated spaces.

Everyone can make Thanksgiving safer by:

- Properly wearing a mask.
- Limiting the number of guests and plan to have event outdoors if possible.
- Avoiding direct contact with others, including handshakes and hugs.
- Seating guests at least 6 feet apart in small tables when eating.
- Encouraging guests to wash their hands frequently or use hand sanitizer.
- Limiting contact with commonly touched surfaces or shared items/utensils.
- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces.
- Limiting guests to touch or interact with pets.
- Asking guests at increased risk for severe illness to not attend in-person gatherings.
- Asking guests with or exposed to COVID-19 to not attend in-person gatherings.

Please continue to keep safety top-of-mind during this holiday season. We're hopeful and optimistic about the coming months, as we see a light at the end of the tunnel with new developments that will help us overcome this pandemic together. Thank you again for everything you do every day. Your meaningful work makes a significant difference in the lives of others.

Wishing you and your loved ones a happy, healthy and safe Thanksgiving,

Bo

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