

Subject: COVID-19 Update – October 8

Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2020 4:41 PM

From: Bo Boulenger

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

Ladies and Gentlemen:

As we move into the fourth quarter of 2020, most of us can agree that we've seen what seems like years of happenings within just the past several months. On behalf of the executive team, I want you to know we are in awe of the work of our entire team over this time, and we are forever grateful to you for the way you take care of our patients and of each other.

The president's COVID-19 diagnosis late last week has once again shone the spotlight on this virus and the speed at which it can spread. It has also brought renewed attention to the importance of wearing masks and continuing to take protective measures to keep ourselves and our loved ones healthy.

Our number of patients with COVID-19 has fluctuated over the past couple of weeks, but remains favorable as discharges continue to outpace admissions. Currently, we are caring for 121 patients who are either positive for COVID-19 or are under investigation. Since the beginning of the pandemic, we have discharged 6,566 patients with COVID-19.

We remain laser-focused on safety. Operationally, we continue to review processes to ensure that we can take care of our patients and provide the care they need in a safe environment for all. We want our patients and our communities to know that they should seek the care they need and that it is safe to do so. While we're seeing our patients return to many services including imaging, urgent care locations and other specialty care, we have not seen the same return in our Emergency Departments. We want to ensure people are seeking the care they need, because above all their health is most important. As ambassadors of Baptist Health, please continue to talk to your friends, family and associates about the work that we're doing to ensure safety.

Flu Vaccines

Please be sure to schedule your flu shot appointment if you haven't done so already. This will help protect you, your loved ones and our patients. Baptist Health requires all employees, leaders, medical staff, students, contract workers and vendors who work at any Baptist Health location to get the influenza vaccine each year. You can make a reservation for a Baptist Health flu vaccination event through the [Flu App Center](#).

COVID-19 Vaccine

As part of the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic, multiple vaccines are currently in the final trial phase. A COVID-19 vaccine may provide population immunity by reducing transmission. Currently, there is no FDA-approved or authorized COVID-19 vaccine. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has recently published guidance detailing their scientific and regulatory review process to ensure the safety, effectiveness, and quality of COVID-19 vaccines.

Following an FDA approval/authorization and through the Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) program, State and local public health officials will have the ability to quickly receive and distribute the vaccine. CRI is a federally-funded program through the CDC designed to enhance preparedness in the nation's major

metropolitan areas. In order to reach everyone who will potentially need the vaccine, the Florida Department of Health (DOH) is partnering with key private organizations throughout the state. As a key member of our community, Baptist Health will have the ability to support the overall vaccination efforts by acting as a point of dispensing (POD). PODs are intended solely to provide vaccines to pre-identified populations or priority groups. As of today, priority groups for a COVID-19 vaccines have not been established.

Baptist Health's efforts, currently at the early planning stages, are being led by Dr. Mark Hauser, President of our Medical Staff and Clinical Enterprise, Nancy Batista-Rodriguez, CEO of Baptist Outpatient Services, Dr. Bernie Fernandez, CEO of BHMG and Occupational Health, Madeline Camejo, Corporate VP of Pharmacy, and Luis Collado, Corporate AVP of Health & Safety, Infection Control, and Emergency Management, to have the ability to provide the vaccine when it becomes available. We will provide additional information, to include timeline and established priority groups, as it becomes available by our public health officials.

Testing Update

All of our Baptist Health Urgent Care and Urgent Care Express locations have rapid antigen testing capabilities, enabling patients with symptoms to be tested and have results available in 15 minutes. We have seen an increase in volume at our centers since this testing became available.

The Abbott m2000, a high volume PCR analyzer, is up and running at Baptist Hospital. Pre-op testing will be run there, guaranteeing a 24-hour turnaround. Baptist Health has entered into a contract with Abbott to increase testing capacity and provide more Abbott ID NOW point-of-care PCR rapid testing across the enterprise.

Baptist Health Emergency Care center in West Miami-Dade NOW OPEN

After the great success of our first off-campus emergency department in West Kendall, we are proud to announce that Baptist Health's second location on Coral Way and 147th Ave in Miami is now open. The facility features sleek, modern architecture and is almost 40,000 square feet. It is especially convenient for those residing in the surrounding West Miami-Dade community. Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, this full-service ER is staffed by Board-certified emergency medicine physicians, physician assistants, nurses and nurse practitioners. They are able to care for people with life-threatening conditions and other emergencies. Congratulations to the team who worked through many challenges to ensure we were able to expand access to care for our community. This new ER will be a valuable resource for residents in this fast-growing area, and we look forward to serving this community.

Virtual Benefits Fairs and Annual Enrollment Coming Soon

Annual enrollment will take place November 2-16. Instead of traditional Benefits Fairs, this year, the HR Benefits Team will be hosting Virtual Benefit Fairs and Information Sessions (from October 12-28) for employees to learn more about the two medical plans and all our other Pineapple Perk benefits offerings. We encourage everyone to join the virtual fairs to ask questions and explore all the perks and benefits that are in store for 2021. [Click here](#) for a schedule of the virtual fairs. Stay tuned for more enrollment information coming soon.

National Health Care Supply Chain Week

One of the many departments that has contributed to our success in delivering safe and effective patient care during this pandemic is our Supply Chain team. This week, during National Health Care Supply Chain Week, we are honored to recognize our Supply Chain department's important role in

helping to protect our team, patients and community by being innovative, working as a team and supporting our mission. Their work was recently featured on the Baptist Health Resource Blog: [Behind the Scenes at Baptist Health: The Essential Business of Keeping Hospitals Supplied](#).

Across the organization, each department has a unique role and impact on our shared mission. Thank you for your ongoing dedication, resilience and flexibility throughout this time. As an organization, we remain equally dedicated and committed to the safety and well-being of our employees, physicians, patients and community.

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