

Subject: Coronavirus Update – July 2

Sent: Thursday, July 2, 2020 7:27 PM

From: Bo Boulenger

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

Ladies and Gentlemen:

As the total number of COVID-19 cases in South Florida continues to rise at a high rate, we are seeing community spread continue in South Florida-- mainly by younger people who are relaxing social distancing guidelines. We are now responding to this second surge of COVID-19 patients and continuing to care for people that have urgent and emergent healthcare needs. We've learned quite a bit about how to manage through this disease over the last few months, and are making changes to our operations and pivoting as the situation evolves. We are monitoring volumes on a daily basis and moving patients across the system to help decompress entities where possible.

Thank you for your continued dedication as we care for the people that need us in our community through difficult and new circumstances.

Visitor Guidelines

We continue to assess visitor guidelines by location. Keeping everyone's safety top of mind, each entity is adjusting its visitor guidelines based on its needs and capabilities. Any changes to those guidelines will be shared internally and with our patients and community on our [COVID-19 webpage](#).

Active Screening for COVID-19

All individuals including visitors, employees, medical staff, volunteers, students and vendors should be assessed before entering any Baptist Health facility for symptoms of acute respiratory illness consistent with COVID-19. (Please reference attached screening tool that highlights our active screening process).

New Technology Coming for Employee Screening Process

To help make the screening process more efficient for employees, we will be implementing new technology soon. The Recovery Task Force team, along with Occupational Health is working on building functionality within our wellness platform/app, Virgin Pulse. More details will be sent out soon. In the meantime and in preparation for the new process, we highly encourage you to download the Virgin Pulse app and register your account if you have not done so already. [Click here](#) for instructions. Additional details will be communicated once the screening tool is ready.

Mask use at Baptist Health Facilities and Offices

All individuals including visitors, employees, medical staff, volunteers, students and vendors must wear a Baptist Health-supplied face mask at all times in our buildings. These must be the disposable face masks that are supplied by Baptist Health. Cloth face coverings, including branded facemasks, which can be worn in the community are not suitable in our settings.

Testing Update

As the number of COVID-positive patients grows, and more patients seek testing we are following specific guidelines for testing across our system.

Baptist Health Urgent Care centers, Urgent Care Express clinics and Emergency Rooms are testing only those patients for COVID-19 (PCR Nasal Swab) if they are actively experiencing symptoms of the virus or meet other established criteria necessary to support operations, and to protect patients and caregivers. Outside prescriptions for testing are not accepted. Patients who do not have symptoms, but would like

to be tested, should visit a community testing site. Links to community testing sites by county can be found on our [website](#).

Throughout the system, all patients needing hospitalization and pre-procedure patients are tested for COVID-19.

Elective Surgeries and Procedures

Elective surgeries and procedures at our hospitals requiring overnight stays are being evaluated daily across our inpatient facilities based on the capacity of each hospital. We will communicate directly with any patient whose surgery or procedure may need to be rescheduled. Any surgery or procedure that is taking place in an outpatient location will not be impacted at this time.

Optimizing our Supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

In accordance with CDC COVID-19 PPE guidelines, our conservation strategies include the extended/limited reuse of reusable eye protection, isolation gowns, reusable head coverings (if part of the surgical attire) and N-95 respirators. We ask that you continue to use these protective devices in accordance to these conservation strategies. In addition, we ask that you continue to use other protective devices, to include gloves, in line with established protocols and guidelines.

Update on Students

On Tuesday, July 7th Group 1 student programs will resume at all Baptist Health facilities with the exception of Miami Cancer Institute and Lynn Cancer Institute. Group 1 will consist of the senior-most students who are nearest to graduation, and who are scheduled to join our workforce in the coming months. The Baptist Health Center for the Advancement of Learning will continue to work closely with clinical operations and our academic partners to determine when the phased reintroduction of students will proceed to Group 2.

Encouraging our Community to Wear a Mask

Baptist Health has joined forces with community leaders and influencers including Gloria Estefan, Jon Landau, Udonis Haslem and Mayor Carlos Gimenez to encourage our community to wear a mask. In the viral social media campaign, the influencers describe who they wear their masks for and encourage others to do the same and share the message. We will be sending masks to those who post photos and engage with our campaign. Follow @BaptistHealthSF on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter for more information.

Mask use is also the subject of a recent Baptist HealthTalk podcast. Click [HERE](#) to listen and download our podcast.

As always, please continue to wear your mask when you're out in the community as well as at work, practice social distancing and encourage others to do the same. We are calling on you to be ambassadors for these important messages to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

Thank you for all that you do.

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