

**Subject:** Employee Message - June 23

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 8:37 PM

**From:** Bo Boulenger

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

Ladies and Gentlemen:

In recent days, we have seen increasing numbers of COVID-19 positive patients being treated at our hospitals. This reflects the trend in many parts of the country and in our state, which recently surpassed 100,000 total cases. While the rate of new reported cases in Florida is much higher than the uptick in the number of hospitalizations, we are watching this closely and making sure that we are ready and able to treat both COVID-19 positive patients and others who need our care.

Currently, across our system we have 286 positive cases and PUIs. This is still considerably less than what we saw at the height of the pandemic- and while we are busy throughout the system, these cases remain manageable. Specifically, we have seen a rapid rise in the number of cases at Homestead Hospital, and we are working closely with the County and the State to support the community during this public health emergency. Today, we are at capacity at Homestead Hospital, but we are fortunate that as a system, we have the ability to transfer patients within our organization to manage our capacity and care for our patients. Our Homestead Hospital colleagues have done an exceptional job in working through this latest influx and we'll continue to support them.

While we are closely monitoring this situation as it evolves and navigating through these challenges, we remain ready to care for our community- whether they are seeking care for COVID-19-related illness or other services. The work that we have done across our organization during the last three months has helped us to prepare for this current situation where COVID-19 is a part of our operation.

Through our ongoing recovery efforts, we are continuing to see our volumes increase for surgery, imaging and other elective procedures. As we balance this with the COVID-19 crisis, it's important to know that we have the proper equipment- including PPE, processes and safety measures in place to accommodate our patients at this time. This is a true testament to the tremendous work that has been done over the last three months across our organization to serve our community.

We all need to do our part to stop the spread of COVID-19. We have a policy in place that mandates mask usage within our facilities. Under this policy, which is attached here for reference, all individuals, including visitors, employees, medical staff, volunteers, students and vendors must wear a Baptist Health-supplied facemask at all times in our buildings. Please comply, and for everyone's safety, please wear a mask and practice social distancing when you're out in the community as well. By following these simple precautions, together we will continue to make a difference in the health of our community.

As always, I will continue to provide updates as the situation changes.

Thank you,  
Bo

**Bo Boulenger**

**Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer**

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