

Recovery Update

June 25, 2020- 5 p.m.



Ladies and Gentlemen,

While the numbers of COVID positive patients in our system have increased over the last several days, we are working to balance our ongoing recovery with the current circumstances. The situation remains fluid, and we continue to monitor and manage our capacity effectively. Providing care for our community and managing COVID-19 is the new reality for us and for healthcare systems across the country. It requires us to be flexible so that we are always ready to continue serving all patients who need our care.

Visitor Guidelines

Moving forward, visitor guidelines will vary by location. Keeping everyone's safety top of mind, each entity will adjust 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](#).

Testing Update

As the number of COVID-positive patients grows, and more patients seek testing, turnaround times for these tests are increasing. At outpatient locations, turnaround times are now approximately 5-7 days. For pre-procedure testing, we are currently testing all patients before their scheduled procedures. We are continuing to seek additional sources for testing to be able to attain results more quickly.

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Updated Eye Protection Guidelines

We continue to experience moderate community transmission of COVID-19, which includes a higher number of positive asymptomatic patients. In addition to following standard precautions (and transmission-based precautions if required), and out of an abundance of caution, we are asking all caregivers to wear eye protection and a surgical mask when providing direct patient care for all patients, regardless of COVID-19 status or diagnosis of the patient. Updated guidelines and education will be forthcoming in the next few days. We continue to use conservation strategies to maximize our supplies of personal protective equipment. When appropriate, these strategies include the extended and limited reuse of N-95 respirators, multi-use/reusable isolation gowns and reusable eye protection.

Universal Masking Policy

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 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 while in our facilities, break rooms, and 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.

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Telehealth Grant

Telehealth is an integral part of our organization. I am happy to share that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) just awarded Baptist Health \$1 million to support our ICU telehealth services and video teleconferencing for patient consults to reduce in-person care and prevent the spread of the virus. Thank you to Linda Leasburg-Kramer, who recognized the opportunity for Baptist Health to receive emergency funding through the FCC COVID-19 Telehealth Program, and the team who worked on the application: Lissette Egues, Lisa-Mae Williams, Danny Elfenbein, Andrew Hartog, Rodolfo Lopez and Ruthy Ocasio.

Thank you all for your ongoing commitment.