

Medical Staff Medical FAQ

Latest Updates and Questions – March 20, 2020

- **Hospital Command Center**
Our hospital command center has been stood up since March 11. If you have any preparedness questions, work through your division director, manager or chair. The command center phone number is 202-715-4242.
- **GW Hospital ID**
Carry your GW Hospital ID on you at all times so that you are able to get to the hospital in the event of any sudden closures.
- **Facility Screening Precautions**
Anyone entering the hospital, must enter through the main lobby (unless seeking medical care). All individuals will undergo a temperature screening and will be asked of any COVID-19 symptoms and recent travel history. If any of these symptoms are exhibited, entry into the facility will NOT be permitted.
- **Elective Cases**
Elective cases are canceled through next week, the week of March 23, 2020. We will continue to evaluate whether to cancel such procedures moving forward.
- **Safety Officer for High-Risk Procedures**
We now have a safety officer onsite 24/7 for support during the Highly Infectious Pathogen (including COVID-19 and Persons Under Investigation) intubations and extubations. In addition, Safety Officers are ready to provide support with any PPE, safety and security related questions.

To contact safety officers please call RF phone numbers:

- Primary Safety Officer: #2589
 - Secondary Safety Officer: #2221
- **Scrub Usage**
Effective immediately we will limit the number of scrubs that can be taken out by any one individual to two pairs at any one time.

- **PPE Usage**

We have an adequate supply of PPE at this point, but must continue to conserve these resources due to world wide supply chain interruptions. We continue to source our PPE from every available vendor in addition to following CDC recommendations to the use of PPE. If you have questions, contact your chair. Do not wear PPE outside of patient care.

- **Surge Planning**

We have surge plans in place. Please contact your chair for those details as it pertains to your division or department.

- **Test Results**

We are notifying patients the day we receive their results, whether negative or positive. If patients are trying to inquire about results, we have set up a phone line where they can call at 202-715-4401.

- **Self-Monitoring Tool**

Effective immediately, if you have been asked to self-monitor for any of the following reasons, you must complete this self-monitoring feedback tool:

<https://forms.gle/DVf1yMootdp4s9A87>

Reasons include:

1. Has been asked to stay home and self-monitor (due to travel, work exposure, co-habitation, community exposure, or other).
2. Calls out sick and should be self-monitoring.
3. Is a low risk provider who is working and self-monitoring.

This will allow us to collect information in order to respond to the needs of staff and also satisfies regulatory data collection requirements. Anyone self-monitoring needs to report their temperature via this link every 12 hours.

- **Child Care Needs**

The DC Hospital Association is working with GW Hospital to assess and provide childcare resources for health care workers and emergency responders.

If you have childcare needs, please complete this survey as soon as possible:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YFKT2LC>

- **Observers**

All observers approved through the Medical Staff Office are suspended.

Recap of Earlier Information

Preparedness and Operational Guidelines

- **What is GW Hospital doing to prepare?**

We are working closely and regularly with our partners at UHS, GW University and the GW Medical Faculty Associates to be proactive to this current outbreak. We are following guidelines from CDC, WHO and D.C. Department of Health including:

- Early identification of suspected patients
- Appropriate isolation of such patients – droplet and airborne
- Use of the CDC recommended PPE
- Patient testing under CDC and DC Health guidance
- Safe disposition of such patients, to either inpatient admission to a proper setting or discharge

We have activated our incident command center at GW Hospital since March 11th to manage the situation to proactively address current and future developments in this evolving situation, including, but not limited to the following in response to this national emergency:

- Impose visitor restrictions with temperature monitoring and symptoms questioning of all persons entering the hospital
- Stand up a COVID19 screening tent for ED patients on the Hospital patio
- Reopened the closed 4 North space (16 beds) which was starting to undergo renovation
- Canceled elective cases for the week of March 16th
- Acquired additional pharmaceuticals, ventilators, and ECMO circuits
- Worked with Medical Staff Leaders on critical care, medical surgical, and ED surge plans

- **What are the visitor restrictions?**

The George Washington University Hospital is temporarily restricting all visitors, as of March 13, 2020. Exceptions to these restrictions can be made in special circumstances, and by prior approval by the Incident Command Center, including:

- End of Life Care,
- Two parents or caregivers of pediatric patients, as long as neither is symptomatic,
- Labor and delivery – two visitors including the professional support person or postpartum helper.

Visitors seeking approval ahead of arrival should call 202-715-4195. Those who arrive on site will begin the process with security. For all exceptions approved, individuals are subject to screening and will be prohibited if they have been in contact with someone with fever, cough or influenza-like symptoms within the last 48 hours, and/or have traveled to an affected country, as currently identified on the CDC Travel Health Notices list. Additionally, individuals will be required to practice effective hand hygiene upon entering the facility as well as entering and exiting a patient room.

- **What should I do if I become ill outside of work?**

All individuals who become ill or develop a fever or other respiratory symptoms, should NOT come to work.

Illness unrelated to work-related exposure should be handled as follows. Stay home and contact your healthcare provider. If you do not have a primary care physician, you can visit one of the [GW Immediate and Primary Care](#) locations in Cleveland Park, McPherson Square and Rhode Island Avenue:

- Cleveland Park
2902 Porter Street, NW
Washington, DC 20008
202-525-5287
- McPherson Square
1101 15th St NW
Washington, DC 20005
202-798-0100
- Rhode Island Ave
2350 Washington Pl., NE
Suite 110N
Washington, DC 20018
202-544-7580

- **What if I have a work-related exposure?**

- **Advanced Provider Practitioners and hospital employed physicians:**
Follow our standard exposure process and contact Sedgwick at 866-648-8994 and alert your manager. Their manager will report the exposure, as is the norm, to Infection Prevention. Incident command will be notified and assist as well as notify all potentially exposed staff to ensure standard processes are followed.
- **Medical Staff:**
Follow up with your supervisor/employer regarding any concerns you may have. Let Hazel Darisse know if you are sick and cannot perform your scheduled procedures. Be sure to have your office reschedule your patients' procedures.
- **Residents:**
First, contact your program director to discuss your symptoms and call incident command at 202-715-4242.

Testing

- **Are we able to test at GW Hospital?**

Yes, we have commercial testing capability at GW Hospital and physicians are able to place an order for a test which will then be sent offsite. We expect to have on-site testing available at the beginning of April.

- **Do we have a testing algorithm?**

Yes, we are screening individuals and asking them about their symptoms, checking for a fever and asking about international travel or potential exposure with a known case in the past 14 days.

- **How do I order a test for a patient who may have COVID?**

If you are the attending physician and feel that you need to test a patient for COVID who is currently admitted, notify the bedside nurse, ensure that the patient is placed on contact and airborne precautions, order a respiratory PCR panel, consider consulting ID, and tiger text the GW Hospital House Operations Supervisor (HOS).

The ED has a separate testing algorithm to test a patient, either commercially or through the DC Department of Health.

Patient Care

- **What if my family member or someone I live with has tested positive?**

Please inform your leader and self-isolate. Do not come to work. If you become symptomatic, please see above.

- **What if I have secondary exposure to someone who tested positive?**

Secondary exposure occurs when you have been exposed to someone who has been exposed to someone with COVID-19. CDC guidelines do not require any additional precautions or changes for the individual with secondary exposure. You do not need to report or self-quarantine unless you are directly exposed to someone with COVID-19 or become ill with a fever or cough.

- **Should I be fitted for an N95 mask?**

If you are providing patient care, you should be fitted. You can get fitted Monday – Friday in Employee Health.

- **If I interact with a patient who later tests positive, will I be notified?**

Yes, we will notify any staff who have interacted with a patient who has tested positive for COVID-19.

- **What happens if I am exposed to a known COVID19 patient in the healthcare setting?**

CDC Interim guidance on Healthcare Worker exposure will guide our evaluation of any healthcare worker exposure to COVID 19. Infection Prevention will perform a risk assessment of your exposure. If judged to be a low risk exposure, you will need to self

monitor for 14 days for a fever. We have thermometers, gloves, mask and a temperature log available for you. If it is believed that you have had a medium or high risk exposure, you will need to self isolate for 14 days. This means that you cannot come to work. Monitor yourself for symptoms during this time period.

- **How is the room of a patient with COVID 19 cleaned?**

We have an established process for terminally cleaning rooms that we use with highly infectious diseases such as TB and meningitis. We will follow that process in the event we have a positive COVID-19 patient.

Travel

- **What are the travel restrictions?**

The CDC recommends that travelers avoid all non-essential travel to Level 3 countries. Check with the CDC website before making travel plans. Here is a link to that website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>

- **What if I travel to a highly infected area?**

Countries considered to be Level 3 risk by the CDC include:

- China
- South Korea
- Iran
- Italy
- Most of Europe

If you travel to one of these countries or any locations that CDC adds to Level 3, you must notify Human Resources at 202-715-4406. You will be asked to self-isolate for 14 days before returning to work, per CDC guidelines. In addition, we will require you to be examined by your physician and provide documentation before returning to work.

Please check the CDC website for up-to-date travel information:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>.