

COVID-19: Community update

Dear community partners,

We want to keep you informed of the work we're doing at Hudson Hospital & Clinic as we prepare for and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. I know the current situation is unsettling, but I also want you to know that it is something for which our hospital and the entire HealthPartners system have been preparing for some time.

We are doing everything we can – and must – to prepare our hospital and region for the ongoing response to COVID-19. Here are a few of the specific ways we're doing that.

At Hudson Hospital & Clinic and across HealthPartners:

- Earlier this year, HealthPartners established a COVID-19 Task Force to prepare to care for patients with COVID-19 and prevent and slow the spread of the virus. In addition to this group, there are multiple local workgroups, including within our St. Croix Valley and Western Wisconsin family of HealthPartners hospitals and clinics.
- Among many other operational changes to prevent and slow transmission of the virus, we have canceled all elective surgeries and procedures, and rescheduled or moved all appropriate clinic appointments to phone or video visits.
- We have implemented visitor restrictions and patient and visitor screenings at all our hospital and clinic entrances; this includes temperature screenings. We have added all-employee health screenings.
- HealthPartners Central Lab and Regions Hospital lab are now able to conduct COVID-19 testing, reducing the amount of time it takes for us to receive results for suspected cases. Due to the limitations on testing supplies, we are currently testing:
 - Hospitalized patients showing symptoms of COVID-19;
 - Health care workers, family members and emergency personnel showing symptoms of COVID-19 through drive-up sample collection at Stillwater Medical Group Clinic (Curve Crest Blvd, Stillwater).
- We have put universal masking guidelines in place for all colleagues working in our hospitals and clinics.
- We canceled all in-person community events and classes to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and protect our patients, members and community. We will continue to monitor CDC recommendations before making a decision on rescheduling events and classes.
- We have implemented social distancing guidelines at all our hospitals, clinics and offices.
- As I'm sure you appreciate, this is a rapidly-evolving situation. Please visit the [HealthPartners website for the latest information and guidance](#).

Specific Hudson Hospital & Clinic updates:

- Hudson Hospital's COVID-19 work group has worked to ensure that leaders' and colleagues' questions are answered, and that the guidelines and recommendations from the CDC, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, and state and federal regulations are implemented.

- We are working closely with Hudson Physicians to coordinate our response to COVID-19 in the Hudson community.
- The past few weeks have been intensely focused on what's known as "surge" planning. This refers to the detailed plans that we have in place if we need to accommodate a significant increase in the number of patients seeking care at Hudson Hospital. Our plans include:
 - Close alignment with Regions Hospital and our St. Croix Valley partner hospitals.
 - Cross-training of staff in areas that are likely to need additional support if patient volumes increase.
 - Logistics, including: Staffing, IT access, equipment, facilities and much more.
- The Hudson Hospital pharmacy has implemented pharmacy curbside pickup of prescriptions for patients to limit the number of people who need to enter the hospital.
- Our campus shuttle van service continues to serve patients, with stringent measures in place to ensure social distancing and hygiene.
- We have been overwhelmed by the generosity and support of the community, including the donation of masks and other personal protective equipment. Hudson Hospital has already received almost 1,300 donated items. We're extending our mask collection drive and are accepting drive-up donations at the hospital main entrance from 10 a.m. to noon on weekdays.
- Our team is very touched by the number of letters, cards and pictures from the community with messages of encouragement and support. Thank you to all who have been in touch to help uplift our staff in this way.

The level of support that we are witnessing in our community is incredible, and it enables our caregivers to focus intently on preparing for and responding to the evolving situation. We are so thankful to be a part of this community.

Sincerely,

Tom

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