



MEMORANDUM

TO: HSHS St. John's Medical Staff and Residents

FROM: Gurpreet Mander, MD
Chief Medical Officer

DATE: March 29, 2020

SUBJECT: HSHS St. John's COVID-19 Medical Staff Update

"Every battle is won before its ever fought"- Sun Tzu

Please review updates on St John's COVID-19 surge preparedness. Feel free to reach out to me at gurpreet.mander@hshs.org with any questions.

The phone number for the Emergency Response Incident Command Center is **ext. 76697**.

Gurpreet

Key Updates:

1. **Personal Protection Equipment:** You are required to wear surgical masks and eye protection when involved in direct patient care for all patients. See attached grid for detailed instructions on PPE for both COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 patients. Please contact the command center located in Centennial Hall to be issued eye protection.
2. **Designated COVID-19 Units:** St. John's has designated ICU B, CCU and the fourth floor in the main building as a negative pressure COVID-19 unit. In case of a surge, additional units with negative pressure rooms will be used. In addition, there are designated negative pressure rooms for pediatrics and OB in WCC.
3. **Multidisciplinary Acute Care Task Force:** of physician and nursing leaders will oversee the surge plan, coordinate on patient throughput, operational and clinical issues.
4. **Anesthesia Procedural Team:** A procedural team is being deployed to offset workload in critical care areas during the anticipated COVID-19 surge. *A two provider team will be available 24/7 for lines and intubations.* The team can be activated by the consulting physicians with extension #51933 and entry of an anesthesia consult in Epic.
5. **COVID-19 Inhalation Medication Process Change:** The guidelines on the use of Nebulizers and MDIs in a COVID-19 pandemic are attached.

6. **Emergency Credentialing and Provider Staffing:** The hospital disaster credentialing plan has been activated and the St. John's medical staff office is coordinating with our medical groups to identify providers willing to volunteer and staff critical hospital services during a surge. We are thankful to all those who have already volunteered to help. A special thanks to Drs. Hughes, Govindiah, Sagins and Lausen in helping coordinate this effort.
7. **ENT Procedures:** Due to high risk of exposure during a COVID-19 outbreak, airway endoscopic procedures will only be performed in those with potentially life-threatening conditions. See the attached memo for more details.
8. **COVID-19 Testing:** HSHS Illinois continues to partner with IDPH laboratories for COVID-19 testing. We are experiencing better turnaround times the past few days due to expansion of hours at the IDPH labs.
 - Collection supplies (swabs and media) continue to be of concern due to high global demand
 - Current testing algorithms continue to focus on high risk inpatients and colleague/MD exposures with approval from IDPH and/or command center
 - In-house COVID-19 testing plans are created and ready to be implemented as soon as testing supplies are shipped to HSHS. HSHS is in daily communication with vendors for updates.
9. **COVID-19 Exposure:** If you suspect that you may have had an exposure at work, please call the command center for further directions.

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