



DESERT REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

DATE: 3/8/2020
TO: All Employees, Medical Staff and Volunteers
CC: DRMC Governing Board
FROM: Michele Finney, Market CEO
SUBJECT: Coronavirus Update

We continue to closely monitor the outbreak of the novel (new) coronavirus (COVID-19), and we continue to work with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Riverside County Public Health (RIVCO) and Emergency Management officials, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to respond to any potential COVID-19 cases that may present at our hospital.

As you may have heard, RIVCO has notified the community that the first case of COVID-19 in Riverside County has been confirmed. The individual is not being identified due to HIPAA rules and regulations, but they are undergoing care at Eisenhower Medical Center. Public health is following up on those who may have been exposed and an investigation is underway to determine how the individual contracted COVID-19.

Our community is already concerned about COVID-19. Please be mindful of comments made to friends, family and social media. Employees and staff are not allowed to publish content related to patients and patient care, even if the patient is not identified. Please discuss any concerns with your supervisor or hospital leadership.

I would like to reiterate that we continue to take the appropriate steps in keeping you and our patients safe:

- We have increased the hand sanitization and mask-donning stations; and have limited access points to our hospitals and building. We have a surge/escalation plan for outdoor triage of respiratory patients to minimize the potential for droplet contamination.
- We have adequate supplies of personal protective equipment, such as gowns, gloves, masks, face shields, and goggles available for our staff and physicians. To help ensure our supplies remain adequate, it is important for our caregivers to follow all guidance on appropriate protective attire:
 - All supplies should be used based on the manufacturer's instructions and in accordance with facility policy
 - N95 masks should be only donned when directly caring for a PUI or with a confirmed diagnosis for an infectious illness

- Use the personal protective equipment (PPE) you need to care for your patient and keep yourself safe but do not use more than you need
 - Prevent inappropriate use of PPE now to save for future patients and their caregivers
 - Anyone not involved in direct patient care does not need additional PPE.
- We centralized responsibility for our response to Patients Under Investigation (PUI) and COVID-19 cases to Christine Langenwalter, Chief Quality Officer, as COVID-19 operations leader for DRMC. Christine is responsible for coordinating our hospital's approach for any patient that presents as a possible COVID-19 patient, including but not limited to, overseeing the triage process, limiting exposure to staff, information sharing as appropriate, and coordinating the continuum of care. Questions can be directed to Christine at (760) 333-4562 or through email C.Langenwalter@tenethealth.com.
 - Other precautions we have taken to help prevent transmission at our facility include posting updated signage in several languages advising patients or visitors to tell staff immediately if they have fever or respiratory symptoms such as shortness of breath and have traveled to affected geographic areas, including China, Iran, Italy, Japan, and South Korea, or been in close contact with a confirmed coronavirus patient, all within the last two weeks.

We will provide you with more information as it becomes available. Thank you again for your hard work, your professionalism, and your continued dedication to our hospital and our patients. We encourage you to share any questions or concerns you may have with your supervisor.