

03.10.2020

Dear Students and Learners,

I am pleased to give you an update on the Coronavirus- COVID19 situation and our work to keep both you and our community safe.

As the COVID19 situation evolves across the world and in the U.S., LCMC Health is prepared to safely screen, diagnose and care for patients with respiratory illness, including Coronavirus - COVID19. In the event a COVID19 patient presents to any location across our health system, LCMC Health has coordinated care plans in place, established in collaboration with the Louisiana Office of Public Health, which are based on the most current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines.

The COVID-19 picture is continuously changing. The intent of this communication is to provide you with some information on the most operational changes that may be relevant to your training and/or education. Note that these changes apply to all clinical sites within the LCMC Health environment including: Children's Hospital, New Orleans East Hospital, Touro, West Jefferson Medical Center, and University Medical Center. Effective immediately:

- Neither students nor learners (residents/fellows) are to report for any clinical rotation if they are ill with a cough, fever, or shortness of breath. If ill, you are instructed to promptly notify your school/ program director for guidance. Should it be suspected that you are ill, you will be sent home and instructed to notify your school/program director. You must not return until at least 24 hours after your fever is gone, without the use of fever-reducing medicines.
- Students should not knowingly participate in the triage, work-up or care of any known or suspected cases of COVID-19.
- Students should not be first-line evaluators or triage any patients who are presenting with any fever and lower respiratory symptoms until alternative diagnosis has been established.
- Students should not care for patients who have yet to undergo clinical and epidemiological screening; and they should not care for any patient who screens positive.
- Given the imperative for appropriate and responsible Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) conservation and utilization, it is advised that student and learner involvement with the care of all patients in isolation should be restricted to the absolute minimum necessary to provide that care. Educational activities can occur outside the room with the entire team, thus allowing for limited, intentional utilization of PPE being allocated to only those providers who are necessary for bedside care.
- If a student or learner is advertently exposed to a suspected or known patient with COVID-19, while rotating at one of the LCMC Health sites, the LCMC policy at this time instructs them to: 1) promptly notify their school/program director, 2) email: UMCEH@lcmchealth.org, 3) stay home and limit exposure to others until instructed by LCMC Health.
- All sites will be reducing entry points to each of the hospitals. Students and learners are expected to work with each hospital to comply with new access policies, understanding the prevailing goal is public, patient, provider, staff and learner wellbeing.

- New visitor policies are also being developed. Please work with our patients to help them understand the organization's goal has everyone's best interest in mind.
- A reminder to everyone that it is everyone's responsibility to protect our patients' information, privacy and confidentiality. The Federal Privacy Rule and all HIPAA regulations are in effect for not only our COVID-19 patients, but every patient who enters our LCMC Health community. Any individual accessing the medical record of a patient to whom they are not directly assigned to provide patient care is potentially in violation and disciplinary action may be taken.

As you know, LCMC Health routinely practices for the potential of an infectious disease outbreak in our community, in collaboration with OPH, to ensure we are prepared. Please know we have a team in place that is monitoring the situation and is dedicated to communicating with our key audiences. In the meantime, please do your part to keep each other, our patients and our community safe by following guidelines from the CDC about prevention:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

Thank you for all you do to support excellent health care in our community. Be on the look out for regular LCMC Health communications and visit both <https://www.lcmchealth.org/coronavirus/> and <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> for up-to-date information.

Sincerely,

LCMC Health Chief Academic Officer