

Daily Update Coronavirus 2020

March 16, 2020

Dear TGMC Healthcare Team,

As the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak continues to spread, TGMC is continuing to make the health and safety of our employees, physicians, patients and community our top priority.

As we continue to learn about more confirmed COVID-19 patients in Terrebonne Parish, we know that you have questions. The Coronavirus Team will be sharing updates and information with you on a daily basis. Please take a moment to read these messages, share them with your teams and print for those who may not have regular computer access.

Below are the latest updates and information.

Visitor Restriction Policy

Our policies are to protect our employees, patients and community from unintended exposure to COVID-19 and will continue to be adjusted as the situation evolves.

In line with Louisiana Department of Health guidelines, TGMC implemented a Visitor Restriction Policy on Friday, March 13. Today the policy has been updated and more refined to the steps procedures below:

- Entry is allowed ONLY through Main Lobby doors until 6:00 p.m. After hour entry for special circumstances will be through the Emergency Department.
- Screening questions and temperature check will be administered upon entry – added Orleans and Jefferson Parish to the sites visited question and looking for temperature at no more than 99 degrees.
- One visitor/patient/day (same visitor)
- Two visitors/patient/day (same visitor) will be allowed in Women's Health Center: Labor and Delivery and Postpartum area only
- No one under the age of 18 is allowed to visit
- All visiting hours will end at 6 PM
- Hand sanitizers available at entrance
- CCU visiting – Late visiting session has been eliminated
- Hospital visiting – Visiting over at 6 pm. No visitors will be allowed to wait in waiting areas. They must be in the room with the patient (if allowed) or leave the facility after visiting hours (CCW).

Oncology patients

- MBPTGMC radiation oncology and medical oncology patients will be screened in the MBPTGMC lobby prior to entry.

Isolation

Negative Pressure rooms have been added in Critical cCre, and 4 North, along with the current beds in ED, 3N, 4N, Recovery, and Endo. More will be converted to Negative Pressure Rooms as equipment is received.

Campus Masses, Support Groups, Group Classes/Education

- Have been cancelled

Employee sickness

- If you are sick do not come to work.
- Contact your supervisor immediately.
- If ill at work, report directly to the employee health nurse.

Anesthesia

- Airway management standardization information will be sent out to all physicians.

Outpatient Clinics

- Virtual visits will be implemented in clinic practices where it makes sense and for patients that can be cared for without a face to face visit.

Supplies

- All supplies are sufficient at this time; however gowns, faces shields, some types of hand sanitizers, and N95 masks may become limited so we will have to monitor and continuously monitor usage.

Testing

- Several new avenues for testing, beyond using OPH, are currently being investigated due to the delay in test resulting from OPH. One such avenue is the use of the TGMC/Ochsner Urgent Care center on West Main Street. Physicians can refer patients there with an order. If clinic has Epic, the order and documentation of need shall be in Epic and the results will flow back into Epic.

Proactive health measures to follow:

- Stay home if you are sick
- Cover your cough
- Wash hands frequently with soap and water or with a hand sanitizer containing 60% alcohol

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- Disinfect frequently touched surfaces
- Avoid close constant (within six feet) with those who are sick
- Symptoms include fever, cough and shortness of breath or difficulty breathing. CDC believes at this time symptoms of COVID-19 may appear in as few as two days or as long as 14 days after exposure.
- Practice social distancing daily and in all activities as possible

Students

- Students will be limited.

Surgery Cases

- Every surgery patient will be screened and temperature tested the day before and the day of the surgery prior to surgery.
- Covid-19 Screening Questions for family and patients:
 1. Do you currently live or have you recently visited Orleans or Jefferson Parishes within the past 2 weeks?
If yes,
Visitor cannot stay within hospital and cannot accompany patient.
Patient can proceed if asymptomatic and has no temperature > 99F
 2. Have you traveled abroad (cruises, etc.).
If yes,
Are they symptomatic?
If yes, cancel.
If no, patient can proceed if asymptomatic and has no temperature > 99F
 3. Are you experiencing symptoms such as fever, cough, and shortness of breath?
If yes, put mask on patient..
Send home to self-monitor; instruct to call family MD if symptoms persist

A temperature check will be standard for all: if greater than 99F, surgery case, procedure or test will be cancelled.

Community

- Gov. John Bel Edwards closed down dine-in restaurants, bars, movie theaters, gyms and casinos statewide. He also banned crowds of 50 or more following previous guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, although the CDC revised that number to 10 Monday.
- Restaurants can still offer drive-through, take-out and delivery options. Edwards said grocery stores will remain open and warned against hoarding.