About Coronavirus

- 2019 Novel Coronavirus, or 2019-nCoV, is commonly referred to as coronavirus. It was first identified in Wuhan, Hebei Province, China. It isn’t completely clear how coronavirus spreads from person to person.
- Current symptoms with coronavirus currently include mild to severe respiratory illness with fever, cough and difficulty breathing. People with coronavirus are presenting symptoms between 2 and 14 days after exposure.
- The World Health Organization and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are actively monitoring coronavirus cases. Right now, the CDC believes the risk coronavirus poses to the general U.S. population is low. (Click here to see the CDC’s coronavirus prevention guidance)
- As of January 30, there have been more than 7,000 confirmed coronavirus cases reported globally, including five in the U.S. – one in Washington, one in Illinois, two in California and one in Arizona. All U.S. patients are reported to have recently traveled to China.
- For comparison, only 170 deaths from coronavirus have been confirmed this season, while more than 8,000 deaths from the flu have been reported.
- Only the CDC can test patients for coronavirus. Those tests are coordinated through local public health departments.

What CommonSpirit Health is Doing

- The care and safety of our patients and staff is our highest priority. Our hospitals are well prepared to care for patients with infectious diseases and constantly review these protocols.
- Every CommonSpirit Health facility is reviewing its personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies, implementing a patient screening process, and reviewing infectious disease protocols with clinical and non-clinical staff as needed.
- Our coronavirus protocols include:
  - Mask patients that meet screening criteria (use surgical or regular mask—not respirator) and place in private or negative isolation room if available.
  - Health care workers should don respirator with eye protection, gown and gloves.
  - Follow standard, contact and airborne respiratory precautions with eye protection (N95 with goggles) when caring for patients.
  - Immediately contacting facility Infection Preventionist, Administrator On Call and local public health department for every suspected case of coronavirus.

What You Can Do

- All staff can help prevent the future spread of infectious diseases through proper use of PPEs, masking of symptomatic patients, practicing healthy hand hygiene and staying home when sick.
- Stay updated on the latest educational offerings and other trainings that ensure the highest levels of preparedness. Employees will be notified as new modules are available.

And Remember…

- The spread of coronavirus is a fluid situation. As needed, we will provide updated information to our staff. If you have any questions, please speak first with your supervisor.