

## **RESPONSE – CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**

What steps has the hospital taken thus far to:

### **1. Prevent spread of COVID-19?**

The Hospital follows the LA County Department of Public Health guidelines as well as the recommendations of the recent site visit from the LADPH / CDC.

### **2. Identify and isolate patients with 2019-nCoV and inform key facility staff and public health authorities?**

Notices have been posted at all hospital entrances, including outpatient clinics, in the available languages; this includes English, Spanish and Chinese. Upon entering the Emergency Department, patients are required to fill out a short questionnaire, which includes a question regarding international travel. The Triage Area / Sorter RN reviews the questionnaire. If the patient meets the criteria for Patient Under Investigation (PUI), the patient is immediately provided with a surgical mask and escorted to a negative airflow room to minimize the risk of exposure; the RN simultaneously dons a N95 mask. The ED contacts Infection Prevention. Infection Prevention reviews the case with the ED RN and notifies LA DPH if the patient meets the PUI criteria. Special Isolation Signage will be placed on the outside of the door to the negative air flow room.

### **3. Care for a limited number of patients with known or suspected COVID-19 as part of routine operations?**

The Hospital follows the LA County Department of Public Health guidelines and limits the number of staff caring for the suspected / confirmed COVID-19 patient.

### **4. Potentially care for a larger number of patients in the context of escalating transmission?**

The Hospital will follow the Emergency Management Program Emerging Infectious Disease Policy (Attached).

### **5. Outline plans for internal and external communication?**

Internal communication will be provided to the Management team and employees as indicated. Information will be disseminated to employees via weekly huddles, All Employee email communication and the Dignity Health weekly newsletter. In addition, Infection Prevention personnel have been providing education and ongoing updates to specific units, including the Emergency Department, as needed. As new information becomes available, it is being disseminated to the Management Team and employees as indicated.

Infection Prevention continues to have ongoing communication with the LA County DPH in compliance with HIPAA guidelines.

### **6. Monitor and manage healthcare personnel with potential for exposure to COVID-19?**

The Hospital adheres to the LA County Department of Public Health and Common Spirit guidelines.

### **7. Manage the impact on patients, the facility, and healthcare personnel?**

The Hospital follows the current LA County Department of Public Health and Common Spirit guidelines.

- **What procedures have been developed for rapidly identifying and isolating suspected COVID-19 patients?**

The Hospital follows the LA County Department of Public Health guidelines. See attached Guidance for Clinicians.

- **What is the ability to implement triage activities based on public health guidance including at the facility and using remote (i.e., phone, internet-based) methods where appropriate to minimize demand on the health care system?**

Not applicable.

- **How many negative pressure rooms are available and what steps have been taken to ensure that negative-pressure airborne infection isolation rooms are available and functioning correctly and are appropriately monitored for airflow and exhaust handling?**

NHMC has 26 negative air flow rooms; two are located in the Emergency Department.

- **What assessments have been done on availability of personal protective equipment (PPE) and other infection prevention and control supplies (e.g., hand hygiene supplies) that would be used for both healthcare personnel (HCP) protection and source control for infected patients (e.g., facemask on the patient)?**

The Hospital completes a daily assessment of critical supplies. LA County EMS Agency has made additional supplies available through the Disaster Resource Center Disaster Caches.

- **What is the facility's contingency plans if the demand for PPE or other supplies exceeds supply? What is the current supply level?**

Supplies are being monitored daily. If the supply of N95 masks and PAPR hoods is not sufficient, NHMC will implement the approved re-use protocols. In addition, the use of PAPR vs. N95 masks may be implemented. To maximize supply, education has been provided to staff regarding the use of surgical vs. N95 masks.

- **Please attach any plans for implementation of surge capacity procedures and crisis standards of care. Is there a contingency plan to staff up RNs if needed?**

Please refer to the attached Emergency Operations Plan/Policy.

- **Please provide policies & procedures for laboratory submission of specimens for COVID-19 testing.**

Please see the attached LA County DPH Provider Checklist.

- **Has there been an assessment on the effectiveness of environmental cleaning procedures (<https://www.cdc.gov/HAI/toolkits/Evaluating-Environmental-Cleaning.html>); What education/refresher training has been provided for environmental services personnel and other HCPs?**

Environmental Services Management Team monitors and validates the effectiveness of cleaning process intermittently. The Hospital follows the CDC recommendations / guidelines.

- **Please attach any policies and procedures for monitoring and managing HCP with potential for exposure to COVID-19, including ensuring that HCP have ready access, including via telephone, to medical consultation.**

Please see the attached Emergency Management Program Emerging Infectious Disease Policy and the Common Spirit guidelines.

- **Have all staff and appropriate HCPs been medically cleared, fit-tested, and trained for respirator use and/or PAPR?**

Staff have been fit tested and / or trained in the use of the PAPR in accordance with the Cal/OSHA ATD Standard.

- **Please provide the education and refresher training to HCP regarding COVID-19 diagnosis, how to obtain specimen testing, appropriate PPE use, triage procedures including patient placement, HCP sick leave policies, and how and to whom COVID-19 cases should be reported, procedures to take following unprotected exposures (i.e., not wearing recommended PPE) to suspected COVID-19 patients at the facility.**

NOTE: COVID-19 is a novel infectious disease. As a result, we are currently providing initial training; re-training is not indicated. Please refer to the attached LA County Department of Public Health and Common Spirit documents.

- **What are plans for visitor access and movement within the facility?**

As recommended by the LA County Department of Public Health and the CDC, the Hospital's plan is to limit/restrict visitor access as well as movement of the patient within the facility. Suspected and confirmed patients will be transported, only if needed, in a controlled environment with Security assistance.

- **Which specific persons have been designated within the facility who are responsible for communication with public health officials and dissemination of information to other HCP at the facility and SEIU121RN?**

The Infection Prevention Department has been designated to communicate with the LA County Department of Public Health. The Infection Prevention, Occupational Health and Education Departments are responsible for disseminating information to HCP.

- **Who is the local or state health department contact for reporting COVID-19 cases and confirm reporting requirements? Please provide their name, title, phone and email address and agency they work for.**

LA County Department of Public Health ACDC  
(213) 240-7941 – Mon-Fri 8a-5p  
(213) 974-1234 – After Hours