March 18, 2020

To all of our Outpatient providers,

In these times of COVID-19, we are so grateful to partner with you.

I have time sensitive information that I would like to share with you.

As of today, in Ventura County, there is 1 confirmed positive case of COVID-19 and 9 presumed positive cases awaiting confirmation from the CDC. There is also now community spread.

There are three informational calls during the week that you are welcome to call in to:

-M/W/F 8 am is Ambulatory Care Huddle (run by Dr. Cho) 1-669-900-6833, access code: 378759888#
-M/W/F 12 pm is Hospital Care Huddle (run by Dr. Flosi) 1-877-402-9753, access code: 6556062
-T/Th COVID Inpatient Clinical Huddle (run by Dr. Lepore) 1-877-402-9753, access code: 6556062

Public Health emergency orders have been expanded as of today. This information is available at vcemergency.com.

Ventura County is still on airborne and droplet precautions.

There is now a hotline for community members. Dial 211.
There is also a hotline for physicians with questions about testing for COVID-19. Dial 1-888-870-0425

The hospital is closed to visitors at this time. The exceptions include 2nd floor: minors and maternity patients (one non-ill adult).
There is also a special exception for the loved ones of those who are dying.
The hospital is **limiting elective cases** including: elective surgeries, screening colonoscopies, and screening mammography. More information regarding this will be distributed soon.

We encourage you to offer **telephone visits** to the majority of your patients. This will ensure continuity of care in this time of uncertainty.

We encourage you to provide a **telephone visit** for those with fever, cough or URI symptoms before sending them for a drive-by screening and potential testing.

Please educate patients that **clinical screening** is being used to guide testing at this time. This is changing daily.

We encourage you to space out the timing for necessary visits to limit those in the waiting room.

We ask for very limited visitors in ambulatory care rooms and please consider seeing those with possible COVID-19, in their cars.

If a patient needs to be transferred to the Emergency department, please call ahead.

Please use N95, surgical masks, and PPE wisely as their is a county wide shortage.

We will ensure the Medical Staff website includes up-to-date testing capabilities and criteria for testing as it changes.

**http://hospitals.vchca.org/medical-staff-services**

Thank you,

Theresa Cho, MD
CEO and Medical Director of Ambulatory Care
Ventura County Health Care Agency