VCMC/SPH Update as of 3/25/2020

Updated screening items, checklists, forms, signage can be found at:
http://hospitals.vchca.org/medical-staff-services

Updates for all VCMC/SPH staff – The MWF 12-1 calls hosted by Dr. Flosi are open to all staff - click on this link to join using “Team” software, so you can see the visuals and online resources being shared. In addition, nursing leadership (Michelle Sayre) are hosting twice daily calls at 5am and 4pm daily, open to all nursing staff.

- See two memos sent today (from Francine Alvarado) on behalf of leadership
  - PPE Conservation Guidelines
  - Change to droplet and contact precautions in keeping with latest research and other hospital practices
- Updated forms include
  - Inpatient Checklist
  - Isolation room signage to reflect Droplet + Contact Isolation
  - Disinfection
  - Outpatient Checklist
  - Outpatient Screening algorithm
- Newly recognized symptoms of COVID – severe joint and muscle pain, and some are reporting sudden loss of smell and taste
- COVID treatment guidelines – these are updated frequently, so please see medical staff website for most recent treatment guidelines
- Mask Usage
  - The most important thing to remember is to have symptomatic patients/persons wear a mask – this is shown to significantly lessen the risk of transmission to others
  - We have asked Public Health to set standards / advise county-wide on the wearing of masks by staff in the hospital to be sure we are complying with best infection control standards and conserving long-term supply. Expect guidance from us later this week on our policies regarding the wearing of masks outside the ED and in providing direct care to PUI/Confirmed patients.
- Patient Sign-In Sheets for PUI/Confirmed patients – It is very important to have the sign-in sheets on patient doors, including for patients in ED who are subsequently discharged home – to do accurate contact tracing – they will be turned in to the nursing office. Please make sure they are accurate and complete.
- Testing Updates
  - When sending testing orders to public health, they request that we enter full information – Name, DOB, Telephone, Address, Physician and Contact of ordering person/physician – so that they can meet their mandates for contact tracing and delivery of results
  - Testing – Updated guidelines from CDC
    - Tier 1 – Hospitalized symptomatic patients, or Health Care Worker (HCW)
    - Tier 2 – Symptomatic high risk including SNFs, Jail, Dialysis, over 65, IPU patients
    - Tier 3 – As resources allow – critical infrastructure workers who are symptomatic, or a-symptomatic HCWs or first responders
    - Others should not be tested
We are now testing for flu in SPH so one less stop for SPH testing processing
Also now have courier from SPH to Public Health to skip the step at VCMC
Sputum specimen collected should NOT be opened and dipped with swab – if you get different direction from Public Health or others, let Dr. Flosi or infection disease team know – do not open sputum specimen until in controlled environment in the lab

Reminder that Elective Procedures and non-urgent labs/radiology should be appropriately cancelled or postponed
There may be first responders, healthcare workers or others that may need labs with urgency even though the order says routine
Providers – Please clarify orders during these times and let your patients know
Screeners – Please educate patients and if they need to appear for urgency let them know to contact their ordering physician
If there are questions escalate to Nursing Supervisor, Dr. Watabe or Dr. Flosi

CT Scans for PUI/confirmed COVID should be done in Vintage CT, unless otherwise necessary

Facilities & Entrances
Fainer Helipad is not in use currently due to the tent outside the ED. We are using the upper parking lot as a helicopter landing pad. Employees may park in the visitor lot outside the trailer off Hillmont
There have been requests to enable exiting from the hospital after 7:30pm rather than having to go through the emergency room – we are working on a solution for this
The tent at SPH is up and operational as of today – there is a portable X-Ray that will be used at SPH but not in the tent due to the uneven ground and elements. We are defining optimal path of travel for patients to X-Ray
We have ample supply of cleaning wipes
We are APPROVED to use gray or purple top cleaning wipes for use with COVID-19 – Reminders:
- Purple Top Super Sani Cloth: 2 minute wet time
- Gray-Top Sani-Cloth AF3: 3 minute wet time
- Blue Top Bleach Clorox Germicidal Wipe: 3 minute wet time
- Green Label Hydrogen Peroxide: 5 minute wet time
EVS or others can enter a room 10 minutes after a COVID suspect/confirmed patient has left the room, as long as no aerosol-generating procedures were performed

Previous Key Updates
Two key orders – statewide and Ventura County specific: Stay Well at Home Order – The idea is to “flatten the curve” – every person infected can give it to 2-3 others. In places where they have done more stringent restrictions we see that transmission rate drop to 1. The objective is to make it so that not all of us get sick at one time. We have excellent providers, space, supplies, but there are limits to how many we can treat at once – so the idea is to spread out the infection to reduce a surge. See this link for why and how we will “flatten the curve”: https://www.livescience.com/coronavirus-flatten-the-curve.html

Critical PPE and Supplies:
A PPE planning team has been working through the weekend to identify creative sources for face shields (3D printing), masks and gowns (volunteers sewing), and other critical equipment through EMS and other agencies
- Donated items / volunteers creating PPE – get in touch with Amy Towner or Robert Tumpane
  - E.g. Harbor Freight and Tools donating entire supply – County Services and OEM
    - We are working with EMS and Office of Public Affairs, CDPH to secure appropriate shares of emergency resources
    - PAPRs – reserved for aerosolizing procedures – particularly intubation
    - COVID leadership team is getting twice daily updates on supplies – both respiratory equipment as well as donated masks, gowns, etc. The respiratory team is tracking and reporting daily critical supplies of respiratory equipment

- In all units, please **limit the number of staff going in and out of rooms of COVID-suspect or confirmed patients** – signage is being developed but please do not send different techs/radiologists/lab personnel in if the task they are doing can be centralized with the assigned nurse or assigned tech. Only disposable meal trays should be used for these patients and should be removed as trash, not sent back to Dietary.

- Reminder new visitor and entrance policies:
  - No visitors with few exceptions (see postings and memos)
  - VCMC employee entrance near the Lab is for emergencies only
  - For safety at night, there may be changes to parking policies - Leticia will communicate
  - We have eliminated elective surgeries – physicians must decide and make specific orders for semi-urgent or questionable procedures. We are cancelling any radiology, lab or other outpatient treatment that is not urgent (To define urgent discuss with provider and Department leadership)
  - Those answering phones or cancelling appointments should be using the standardized script approved by leadership – contact Lisa Griffiths if you need this

- Staffing and Employees:
  - Employees and workplace questions:
    - **COVID Testing of symptomatic employees / physicians** – We can expedite for our critical work force – if you have someone sick, our partners in urgent care will test them – get them swabbed as soon as possible so they can be cleared to work the next day. If known COVID exposure at work, contact HR first.
    - **If a staff-member is asking about coming back to work based on exposure or symptoms, contact HR** and they will connect with Employee Health if needed
    - Dr. Kory is handling physician screening and workplace questions
  - Can people 65+ come to work - Yes, they should come to work. If their job is performable from home they should stay home. If not, then you make managerial decisions to keep 65+ in lower risk area / role if possible. Same is true for other at risk conditions. Follow the guidance by Dr Levin, and if you have questions see above.

**MWF Update Call: Inpatient COVID Huddle**
- **Dial in:** 877.402.9753
- **Access code:** 6526062

[https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ODM3NzAwNjMtOWU4Ny00MWWVhLWE1N2QtNjY4Y2ZkMjRiNTEx%40thread.v2/0?](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ODM3NzAwNjMtOWU4Ny00MWWVhLWE1N2QtNjY4Y2ZkMjRiNTEx%40thread.v2/0?)