Leadership Update: COVID Command Center: Monday 3/9/20

Latest forms and links can be found at: [http://hospitals.vchca.org/medical-staff-services](http://hospitals.vchca.org/medical-staff-services)

Key Updates:
- No new confirmed cases of coronavirus in Ventura County
  - VCMC: 0 patients under investigation (PUI) or confirmed for Coronavirus
  - SPH: 0 patients under investigation or confirmed for Coronavirus
- News from Public Health
  - Testing continues in Ventura County and is available at additional laboratory locations – we are confirming instructions for those sending samples to labs and will communicate those as they are available
  - State has released updated guidance regarding schools, public events, living facilities etc – California has 114 cases confirmed, including cruise ship passengers, as of 3/8/2020. 14 of those cases are from community transmission, again none known transmitted via community transmission in Ventura County. ([source](#))
- Updates from VCMC & SPH Leadership:
  - LAB TESTING:
    - The CDC has released new guidelines on who to test - Clinicians should use their judgment to determine if a patient has signs and symptoms compatible with COVID-19 and whether the patient should be tested. Most patients with confirmed COVID-19 have developed fever and/or symptoms of acute respiratory illness (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing). ([source](#))
  - SUPPLIES:
    - New guidance is being discussed on the reuse of N95 respirators – we will share that as soon as available, and all posted signs throughout the hospital will be updated. As a reminder, all N95 masks are locked cabinets - with access via keys stored in Pyxis. Reference posted instruction sheets or contact the House Supervisor if there are concerns about N95 availability.
    - VCMC and SPH have inventoried all supplies in accordance with CDPH centralized reporting, including ventilators, and are monitoring their use with current patients in preparation for surge.
    - All staff should be FIT tested if not already. Those with facial hair should be prepared to wear PAPRs.
    - California may make available some of its emergency planning reserves of 21 million N95 filtering face piece masks for use in certain health care settings to ease shortages of personal protective equipment ([source](#))
  - VISITORS / VOLUNTEERS:
    - Any visitors or volunteers with a fever, cough, or respiratory illness of any kind should not be at our facilities, however, at this time we have no restrictions on visitors and volunteers
  - MISC UPDATES & SPECIAL SITUATIONS:
    - PPE Use – leadership and infection prevention leads will be ensuring the teaching of proper PPE donning/doffing, as well as the use of PAPRs – ([Helpful PPE video to share with your staff is here](#))
    - POST-EXPOSURE MONITORING: Magdy is working on updating the supervisor’s form to include risk categories related to severity of exposure. Should be available on website ([http://hospitals.vchca.org/medical-staff-services](http://hospitals.vchca.org/medical-staff-services)) later today.
- MEDIA – Should you receive any inquiries for comment from the media or the public, you should refer inquiries to the County Public Information Officer, Ashley Bautista at (805) 654-2640
- AFMC is screening entrants to the facility. This is due to high-prevalence of immunosuppressed and chronically ill patients. They are also working out a process to do “drive by” testing.
- Leadership is meeting this afternoon to solidify a plan to staff entrances for screening, limit visitors, improve signage
- The California Employee Development Department (EDD) is encouraging individuals who are unable to work due to exposure to COVID-19 to file a Disability Insurance claim (source)
  - We have asked HR to weigh in on the numerous questions that have arisen regarding the potential missed work due to a coronavirus exposure.