

COVID-19 Preparedness

Out of an abundance of caution for our patients, families and staff, we have implemented new visitation and screening policies in hospitals across the system. Some of these measures include:

- Screening checkpoints at the entrances to each of our facilities. We ask that anyone entering let us know if they have a COVID-19 test pending, if anyone in their household tested positive for COVID-19 and if they have felt feverish/had a fever of 100.4 or greater in the past 72 hours. We will also take the temperature of every visitor to the hospital.
- Limiting the numbers of visitors to one designated healthy adult per patient

Testing

- We are currently following all testing guidelines provided by the CDC and the Tennessee Department of Health. This means that there are certain criteria that need to be met at this point to receive a test.
- We expect to have commercial testing available soon and will follow state and national recommendations for how that will be administered.

Signs, Symptoms, Spread

- Most patients with confirmed COVID-19 infection have mild respiratory illness with fever, cough and shortness of breath. A smaller number of patients have severe symptoms requiring hospitalization.
- The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person through coughs and sneezes. People are thought to be most contagious when they are most symptomatic (the sickest). This is why we're encouraging people to practice good health hygiene. Wash your hands thoroughly and often. Cover your coughs and sneezes, stay home from work or school if you are sick and keep a safe distance from others who are sick.