



Riverside Service Area COVID-19 Communications

March 19, 2020

Hello all,

This latest COVID-19 update is brought to you by your Medical Center Administrative Team (MCAT). Please print out and share/post daily for your staff and providers.

Below are today's updates for physicians and staff:

- 1. Thank You.** We want to take time to say thank you to our frontline employees, management staff and physicians. You have done a phenomenal job of handling the rapidly developing information, guidelines and activities related to COVID-19, all while working as a team and providing outstanding care to our members. We sincerely appreciate all that you are doing each day—just take in a deep breath we'll all get through this together!
- 2. Regional COVID-19 Testing.** An addendum to the most recently published Covid-19 testing Guidelines are available [here](#). As of today, there is no testing at RMC.
- 3. Be Nice to Screeners.** We have received reports of staff having conflicts with our greeters screening members, please understand they are doing a very necessary job protecting everyone. In the future, physicians and employees may be screened before entering medical facilities similar to LA County.
- 4. Regional COVID-19 Testing.** An addendum to the most recently published Covid-19 testing Guidelines are available [here](#).
- 5. Sick Employees.** Employees reporting feeling ill **should not** be sent to Employee Health or Occupational Medicine for evaluation. Managers should use sound judgement as to whether the employee should be released from work. Sick employees should follow up with their provider for care if needed.
- 6. Wearing Scrubs.** All staff who do not wear scrubs as part of their normal work attire will be permitted to wear scrubs while at work. Scrubs will not be provided and employees are expected to provide their own if they decide to wear scrubs daily.
- 7. N95s in RMC Pyxis.** In order to ensure that we have N-95 masks for high risk procedures (i.e. intubation, specimen collection causing aerosolization) , and to protect our resources for our clinical staff, we now have them available in the Pyxis Tower in our Inpatient Units. Read more [here](#).
- 8. PPE Conservation.** PPE conservation is a priority—**masks, gowns, face, shields, and swabs**. Please adhere to the proper guidelines for using PPE so that we keep sufficient supplies in stock. Remember that improper use or abuse of KP assets such as PPE violates our organization's National Fraud, Waste and Abuse Control Policy. See this [fact sheet](#) for more on this topic. For information on PPE use, please print and distribute: [Conservation of N95 Respirators](#), [Eye Protection Conservation Protocol](#), [Masking Protocol](#).
- 9. Extended Use of Masks & Eye Protection.** The extended use of masks and eye protection are appropriate for use while providing care for multiple patients as long as these items are not removed between patients. Gloves and gowns should be changed between patients. **Please be very careful to not touch or adjust masks and eye protection with bare hands while providing care between patients.** This is the latest guidance on PPE use from the CDC due to the national shortage. Read more of the guidelines [here](#).



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10. Daily Communication Team Site. We are creating a team site to serve as a central hub for all Daily COVID-19 messages. By the end of today, 3/19, the team site can be found by going to your Microsoft Teams desktop icon, then click on “Teams” and you will find a team titled “Daily Communication.” If you have any questions, email COVID19RMC@kp.org.

Below are the COVID-19 resources available to physicians and staff.

- **Hospital Command Center (HCC).** HCC will operate from 7 a.m. until 5 p.m. and operate virtually from 5 p.m. until 7 a.m. If you have questions or issues that need to be escalated to the HCC, please dial **951-353-4612** (tie line: 258) or email COVID19RMC@kp.org.
- For all COVID-19 information and resources: [Inside KP COVID-19 resource page](#)
- COVID-19 training for all physicians and staff: [Mandatory COVID-19 KP training](#)
- Employee Assistance Program Consultant: [Jennifer Heim, LCSW](#)
- **Droplet Precaution Guidelines.** For the routine care of individuals who have influenza like illness (ILI) or have tested positive for COVID-19, **Kaiser Permanente is using enhanced droplet precautions—surgical/ isolation masks, gowns, gloves and eye protection.** This means that when caring for a patient with ILI, or has tested positive for COVID-19, our care teams will be protected by the use of a surgical or isolation mask rather than an N-95 respirator. An N95 mask will still be used when caring for a patient suspected or confirmed with COVID-19 for patients requiring procedures that are likely to generate a high concentration of respiratory aerosols (e.g. intubation, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, bronchoscopy). It also means that, consistent with CDC guidelines, we will move from only using negative pressure rooms to using any single room to assess and care for patients who meet the criteria for or have tested positive for COVID-19. Negative Pressure Rooms will be prioritized for patients likely to need a high-risk procedure. Review [Infection Control Guidance COVID-19 \(3/16/20\)](#), also read the precaution messaging [here](#), and for the visitor checklist click [here](#).