

August 21, 2020

Dr. David Weiss
CHI Franciscan / St. Michael Medical Center
2520 Cherry Avenue
Bremerton, WA 98310

RE: PUBLIC HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS

Dr. Weiss,

Thank you for your continued cooperation and close partnership with Kitsap Public Health. Here are our recommendations per our conversations on August 21, 2020. Continue these recommendations until there is no active spread (no new cases identified for 14 days) of COVID-19 in your facilities.

“Staff” Definition: all people who work in the hospital (including kitchen staff, contractors, affiliates, etc.)

Testing

- **Test all employees** to establish a baseline.
 - All staff and patients on impacted units tested every 3-7 days until no new cases are identified for 14 days
 - Prioritize testing at Bremerton campus, but should test other campuses if staff cross over between sites.
- **Test all hospital patients** at admission AND discharge.
 - Recommend utilizing CDC guidance for nursing homes and test hospital long-term patients every 3-7 days until there have been no new cases in 14 days.
- **Identify and notify** all recently discharged patients from impacted units about potential exposure and recommend testing.
- **Recommend use of regional lab** with quick turnaround test for all staff and patients.

Staffing

- **All staff must wear surgical masks**, at a minimum.
- **Exclude from work** all COVID positive and staff with COVID symptoms.

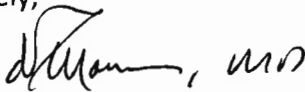
- **Exclude from work** staff that are household contacts of a confirmed COVID case in isolation.
- **Actively screen employees** instead of allowing self-attestation.
 - Cases so far have non-specific symptoms and we recommend being more judicious about screening and excluding staff.
 - Supervisors should be vigilant in keeping staff out of facility if they have any symptoms.
- **Quarantine exposed staff.** However, if hospital chooses to require essential workforce staff to return to work, restrict to one unit.
- **Staff assigned to COVID unit should be restricted to COVID unit.**
- **Restrict movement of staff** between multiple units until further notice.
- Advise physicians to **minimize nebulizer or aerosol generating procedures.**

Administrative/Engineering

- **Mask patients for all encounters with staff** preferably in hospital provided surgical masks.
- **Suspend non urgent procedures.**
 - If not suspending non urgent procedures, there should be very clear disclosure to those patients so they can decide whether to continue with procedure or postpone.
- **Suspend visitors** to hospital.
- **Restrict all social hospital activities.**
- **Continually assess** environmental and hygiene practices.

Please contact me if you have any questions at gib.morrow@kitsappublichealth.org or (360) 728-2260.

Sincerely,



Gib Morrow, MD, MPH
Health Officer