



MedStar Health

COVID-19 NOW What You Need to Know

June 10, 2020

Operational Messages

COVID-19 NOW messages for leaders, in your inbox and also available on [StarPort COVID-19 Updates & Resources](#) and [myHR](#). Please share with entity/functional leaders and, when appropriate, associates.

Message from Our CNO & Director of Pulmonary Services

Senior Vice President & Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) Sue Eckert, RN, MSN, welcomes MedStar Washington Hospital Center Director of Pulmonary Services Eddie Palmer, RRT, to discuss the coordinated efforts of respiratory therapy to advance care in the **COVID-19 NOW Video**. Click [here](#) to watch.



Click the image above to play the video.

UPDATED! Pre-Operative COVID-19 Testing Locations

The revised list of MedStar Health Urgent Care and MedStar Medical Group (MMG) Primary Care locations offering pre-operative COVID-19 testing is available in the **UPDATED! Pre-Operative COVID-19 Testing Locations** [here](#) on the Patient Care & Associate Safety Resources website (outside of network), [here](#) on StarPort and [here](#) on myHR.

UPDATED! Temporary Patient Visitor Restrictions During COVID-19

Any visitor who lives in the same household as a COVID-19 positive person is not permitted, unless the patient has been in the hospital for more than 14 days. In this instance, the household contact can be approved as an exception. Additionally, in Labor & Delivery, patients who decline COVID-19 testing are considered a Person Under Investigation (PUI) during delivery. PUI and COVID-19 positive patients are not permitted to have a support person while on Labor & Delivery floors. The **UPDATED! Temporary Patient Visitor Restrictions During COVID-19** are available [here](#) on the Patient Care & Associate Safety Resources website (outside of network), [here](#) on StarPort and [here](#) on myHR.

Clinical Messages

[Discontinuation of Isolation Precautions for Hospitalized PUI and COVID-19 Positive Patients](#)

See updated **Discontinuation of Isolation Precautions for Persons Under Investigation (PUIs)** [here](#) and **Discontinuation of Isolation Precautions for COVID-19 Positive Patients** [here](#).

Surgical & Ambulatory Resources

As we continue to resume elective and non-urgent surgeries and procedures and ambulatory operations across the system, access specific **Surgical Resources** [here](#) and **Ambulatory Resources** [here](#).

Face Masks with Exhalation Valves Must be Covered or Replaced

Universal face mask use is required for patients, visitors and associates, however, MedStar Infection Prevention and Infectious Disease experts determined face masks with exhalation valves are not appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Exhaled breath is not filtered, so the face masks do not achieve source control. The face masks must be covered or replaced. See **Masks with Valves Signage** [here](#).

Ending Use of Contact Precautions for MRSA, VRE

Effective June 15, 2020, in response to current data and recommendations from Infection Prevention and Infectious Disease experts, MedStar Health patients infected or colonized with Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) and Vancomycin-Resistant Enterococci (VRE) will no longer be placed on contact precautions, unless certain criteria are met. This is important as we optimize all of our PPE practices in the era of COVID-19. For more details, see **Ending Use of Contact Precautions for MRSA, VRE** [here](#).

Reminders

- All associates and physicians must continue to practice physical distancing and ensure universal face mask use in break rooms, cafeterias and other dining areas. See Universal Face Mask Guidance for clinical locations [here](#) and non-clinical locations [here](#).
- Visit Associate Support & Resources [here](#) on StarPort and [here](#) on myHR for well-being guidance, including wellness rounding and stations now in place, expedited mental health appointment access, free access to certified paralegals, free financial workshops, and more.
- Our communities recognize our efforts in the fight against COVID-19. A dedicated page [here](#) on StarPort and [here](#) on myHR showcases heartfelt messages and kind gestures of support.

Resources

[StarPort](#)
[myHR](#)

[Website](#) (outside of network)

[MedStar eVisit](#)

[Working Remote Resources](#)

[Associate Support & Resources](#)

Questions? COVID19@medstar.net