



Update on COVID-19 Preparedness - March 2, 2020

A message to all CMH team members from John Alexander, MD, MHCM, FACEP, Chief Medical Officer, Central Maine Healthcare

This is to update you on the rapidly evolving situation around COVID-19, also known as coronavirus.

- There have been no cases of COVID-19 diagnosed in Maine.
- As of 3:30 p.m., a single case involving a patient who had recently traveled to Italy was confirmed in Grafton County, New Hampshire.
- Central Maine Healthcare is continuing to work with the guidance of the Maine and Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and will be providing an update to CDC recommended protocols as they become available.
- We have updated our patient screening protocols and are prepared to safely isolate patients presenting with symptoms that put them at risk for the virus. This includes requiring patients with respiratory symptoms to mask upon entry, as well as ensuring staff have necessary information and personal protective equipment.
- As of today, we are restricting all visitors with respiratory symptoms. Compassionate exceptions to this policy must be reviewed and confirmed with the infection prevention team.
- We are also restricting children under 12 years old from visiting patients in our hospitals.
- Our emergency preparedness, operations and IP teams are ensuring that CMH has more than sufficient equipment, supplies and facilities in the event of widespread disease.

Consistent with our influenza policy, staff members with severe respiratory symptoms or fever are being asked to stay home. Staff members who have mild respiratory symptoms are required to mask, and all staff members are required to observe hand hygiene before and after patient contact.

We will be providing daily updates to all staff members to ensure your safety and the safety of our patients, visitors, and community. Thank you again for your dedication to providing compassionate care for our patients.

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