



*COVID-19 update: negative pressure rooms, Infection Prevention policies and team member vaccination – with new mall hours*

*A message to CMH team members from Incident Commander and Chief Medical Officer John Alexander, MD, MHCM, FACEP*

**RESENDING TO UPDATE HOURS OF AUBURN MALL HIGH-VOLUME VACCINATION SITE**

**NEGATIVE PRESSURE ROOMS ON Y4 AND T3**

With the decrease in COVID-19 cases, Plant Ops will soon be removing negative pressure machines from some rooms on Y4 and T3. In Rooms 54-58 and 411-422, the machine and duct will be removed and the opening in the aluminum panel in the window frame will be capped. This will allow for easy reinstallation of negative pressure machines if they are needed again while removing bulky equipment for enhanced patient experience and comfort.

**INFECTION PREVENTION**

Guidance and protocols will continue to adapt to the evolving conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic, including increased availability of PPE, decreasing prevalence of infection and the wide availability of vaccines.

The [Standard Work for Reuse of Masks and Respirators](#) has been updated to return to the best practice of primarily using N95s and procedure masks as single use.

- **N95 respirators will be used only once and discarded** unless a healthcare worker is involved in the care of successive Novel Respiratory Infection Precaution patients where the respirator is not removed and is used with a face shield.
- **Procedure masks are to be removed and discarded**
  - **after exiting any patient on Droplet, Contact or Enteric Precautions, or**
  - **when the mask becomes potentially contaminated and a new mask is donned.**

Please discard any paper bags with N95s that you have been conserving. Note: 1860 Smalls are still difficult to acquire at this time, but all others are readily accessible.

In addition, the [PPE Guidance for COVID-19](#) has been updated to standardize specimen collection PPE across all areas. Swabbing symptomatic patients requires N95 respirators, gowns, gloves and face shields/eye protection. Screening asymptomatic patients or screening tests require N95 respirators, full face shields and gloves, but gowns are not a requirement.

Both of these policies are also available on the team member portal.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact Infection Prevention at 795-2892 or 795-2967.

## **TEAM MEMBER VACCINATION**

As many of you have read or heard, CMMC continues to have one of the lowest hospital COVID-19 vaccination rates in Maine. Our latest numbers indicate that 60% of CMMC team members are vaccinated, compared with 75% at Rumford Hospital and 85% at Bridgton Hospital.

Team members are strongly encouraged to receive their vaccination if they are able to do so. If you haven't, please consider reaching out to your leader to have an open discussion about any questions or concerns. We're also happy to talk to you or your team. Email [CMHCCommunications@cmhc.org](mailto:CMHCCommunications@cmhc.org) to reach out or to submit questions. The website [getvaccineanswers.org](http://getvaccineanswers.org) is also a great resource.

Our Auburn Mall site continues to have walk-in availability – *now on **Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturdays from 8 a.m.-noon.*** Please let the staff know that you are a CMH team member as there is a streamlined registration process for team members.

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