



COVID-19 Update – Sept. 1, 2021

A message to CMH team members from Incident Commander Kris Chaisson, MS, BSN, RN, CCRN, CMMC VP of Nursing and Patient Services

For the most up-to-date information, please access the team member COVID-19 website at www.cmhc.org/team-alerts.

Current COVID patient numbers: Central Maine Medical Center: 10; Bridgton Hospital: 1; 5 on waitlist

TODAY'S TOP 5 - Today's update will be organized around the five objectives of Incident Command.

Objective 1- Keep patients, team members and visitors safe

- Our team member vaccination rate is going up. It is now at 77.74%.
- Eight team members are now out due to exposure to COVID-19. Only two were vaccinated.
- We generally have about 30 team members out due to symptoms.
- This greatly affects our ability to operate our departments and care for the community effectively.
- If you are not vaccinated and are exposed in the community you have to quarantine and use 10 days of Choice Time.
- Most important to continue to mask! Hand hygiene! Spatial distancing! Please be vigilant – even if you are vaccinated.
- If you have any questions about getting the vaccine, please ask your leaders so we can address them accordingly.

- We are limiting inpatient visiting to individuals 18 and older. In dire circumstances, exceptions for visitors who are minors may be made at the discretion of nursing leadership or the administrator on call. Accompanied minors may be allowed in ambulatory medical imaging and in the Emergency Department.

Objective 2 - Prepare for a surge and increase capacity

- We are in another surge and executing our surge plan with patients on both ICU and on T3.
- Maine's 14-day positivity rate is 2.5%. Please keep in mind that this is not the number of the prevalence of the disease but a reflection of the rate of those we have tested to those who tested positive.

Objective 3 - Preserve services

- We are actively accepting patients and managing our census and admissions on a case-by-case basis.
- Our length of stay is increasing as exposures and staffing affect our ability to place patients in long-term care, etc.
- The Emergency Department is at pre-pandemic levels for volume and is boarding patients every day due to challenges staffing more beds on inpatient floors.

Objective 4 - Partner with external agencies and the State

- The high-volume vaccination clinic at the Auburn Mall is active and will remain open for vaccinations.
- The site is accepting walk-ins. More information is available on the [COVID vaccination section of our website](#).
- After Sept. 16, we will no longer have vaccination clinics on the CMMC mezzanine as unvaccinated team members (who do not have a medical exemption) cannot be in our facilities as of Oct 1.

Objective 5 - Keep all informed

- Incident Command is meeting frequently – once a week – during this time.
- We continue to assess staffing and compliance with the State vaccination mandate.

- Please check the team member portal, *OnPoint* and other communications for resources on the mandate, vaccines and other COVID topics.

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