



## COVID-19 Update: Sept. 16, 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](http://www.cmhc.org/team-alerts).

**COVID patient numbers:** Central Maine Medical Center: 12; Bridgton Hospital: 1-2; Waitlist: 2-3

**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 now at 81.25%. Great job!
- About 30 team members are out due to COVID exposure.
- 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.
- It's most important to continue to mask! Hand hygiene! Spatial distancing! Please be vigilant – even if you are vaccinated.
- We are offering COVID testing every day for team members who are symptomatic (failed the screening).

- We need help testing fellow team members. You do not need to be clinical to be in this role; we will train you to collect a nares swab. The shifts are 6-8 a.m. and 4:30-6:30 p.m. Team members receive a stipend of \$100 for picking up a shift. Sign up at: [ED Coverage: ED Assistance Roles August 2021- October 2021 \(signupgenius.com\)](#)
- 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 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 7-day positivity has more than doubled to 6.5%. 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.
- The Emergency Department remains very busy and is dealing with significant staffing shortages.
  - The need for ED assistance roles is great. Please socialize and consider these roles. The door is always open for emergency services and that is where are greatest unknowns and risks are. Sign up at [ED Coverage: ED Assistance Roles August 2021- October 2021 \(signupgenius.com\)](#)
- Our length of stay is increasing as exposures and staffing affect our ability to place patients in long-term care, etc.
- All our operating rooms and procedural areas are providing services.

### **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](#).
- Team members are on the clock when they are getting their vaccinations.
- After Sept. 16 (today), we will no longer have vaccination clinics on the CMMC mezzanine.

#### **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.
- We are working actively on staffing contingency plans.
- We hope to soon receive information on COVID-19 booster doses from the Maine CDC.
- Please check the team member portal, *OnPoint* and other communications for resources on the mandate, vaccines and other COVID topics.

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