



## COVID-19 Update: Sept. 29, 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).

**Current COVID patient numbers:** Central Maine Medical Center: 10

**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 86.4%. Great job!
- CMH continues to have team members out due to exposures – many of these are from team members being unmasked in break rooms and having too many people in a room.
- It's important to continue to mask! Hand hygiene! Spatial distancing! Please be vigilant – even if you are vaccinated.
- We have added COVID testing for symptomatic team members (failed the screening). It will be available every day from 6-8 a.m. and 4:30-6:30 p.m. if we can get these shifts filled. Team members working these extra shifts will get a stipend if they are salaried (directors excluded) and 1.5 times the base rate if hourly.

- Sign up for a shift at: [ED Coverage: ED Assistance Roles August 2021- October 2021 \(signupgenius.com\)](#)
- Our Auburn Mall vaccination site is ready to administer booster doses of Pfizer to individuals who have completed their Pfizer series at least six months ago and are:
  - At least 65 years old;
  - At least 18 years old with **underlying medical conditions**; or
  - At least 18 years old and at **increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional setting**.
- As healthcare workers, CMH team members are eligible to receive the Pfizer booster due to increased risk of transmission. Team members can get their booster shot on a walk-in basis at the Auburn Mall. Please identify yourself as a team member as the process is streamlined for you.
- Team members who are working can get their COVID vaccine at the mall, stay on the clock and get paid.
- Team members who are on a day off can put in to be paid for the time, not to exceed two hours.

#### **Objective 2 - Prepare for a surge and increase capacity**

- We have been maintaining the same amount of COVID patients for the past several weeks.

#### **Objective 3 - Preserve services**

- We are actively 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 our 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 of 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 remains open for the primary series of vaccines and, for eligible groups, additional doses and booster shots.

#### **Objective 5 - Keep all informed**

- Incident Command will pivot some objectives to address contingency plans for our diminishing resources as we near the vaccination mandate deadline.
- We will assess membership of our current Incident Command and invite others to attend.
- Please check the team member portal, *OnPoint* and other communications for resources on the mandate, vaccines and other COVID topics.

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