Important Message Regarding CMH's Response to COVID-19

A message to all CMH team members from Jeff Brickman, FACHE, President & CEO, Central Maine Healthcare

As part of our ongoing commitment to your health and safety, we have taken additional steps today to prevent any spread of illness in our hospitals and among our staff. We know there is concern about COVID-19, or Coronavirus, and we want you to bring you up to date on some important information.

As many of you may have heard, the first presumptive positive case of the virus has been confirmed in Maine. That patient lives in Androscoggin County and was tested in the Central Maine Medical Center Emergency Department on Tuesday. It is critical to know that the patient had recently been in a country where the virus was widespread, and had self-isolated at home after returning to Maine with respiratory symptoms. The travel exposure and subsequent quarantine indicate that the patient had not acquired the virus in our community.

We are now undertaking serious additional steps to ensure your safety and the safety of our patients. These steps include:

- Satellite screening sites outside each hospital Emergency Department. Patients will be met at the ED by nurses. Those meeting screening criteria will be directed to the screening site for testing for both flu and coronavirus.
- Restriction of visitors. As of 9 p.m. Friday, visitors will not be permitted in the hospitals or long-term care facilities. Exceptions will be made for compassionate care, moms in labor and pediatric patients.
- Reduced entry points at Central Maine Healthcare. We will be asking staff to enter the building only through designated access points.

It is important to stress that COVID-19, or Coronavirus, is not widespread in our communities. But we also know that we must act out of an abundance of caution to secure the safety of patients in the hospital, as well as dedicated staff who care for them. Central Maine Healthcare will continue to take every necessary step to do so.

Thank you for your support and dedication to our organization. Click on the image below for a special message from President and CEO Jeff Brickman.
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