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TO: Premier Health Managers, Providers, and Staff [AMC, CompuNet, Fidelity Health Care, MVH, MVHN, MVHS, PPN, PSS, SBHI, UVMC]

FROM: Mary Boosalis, President & CEO, Premier Health

DATE: May 18, 2020

RE: **Update on Universal COVID-19 Screening | Resumption of Sleep Studies**

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We continue to take significant steps in implementing universal screening for COVID-19 across our health system. **Effective Tuesday, May 19**, we will continue to advance this important initiative with **screening for ALL patients who have been (or will be) admitted to our hospitals**. This will apply to patients under observation status as well.

COVID-19 screening is just one of several ways that we are working to ensure the safety both of our providers and employees, in addition to our patients. This will dramatically reduce unintentional spread of the virus, keeping all of us – patients, visitors, and staff – safer.

Here are some of the key reasons why we are taking these necessary steps toward universal screening:

- Expansion of COVID-19 screening is a **key part of Ohio’s plan to ramp up many health care services**. The expansion of screening also will help ensure that our region has a far more detailed understanding of the extent to which the COVID-19 virus has spread in the community.
- Due to extensive social distancing, the rate of immunity from COVID-19 is quite low. This leaves our society susceptible to periodic outbreaks of the disease in the absence of a vaccine. **Widespread screening, including in hospitals, helps contain such outbreaks as they occur.**
- Expanded screening will play a **key role in efforts to conserve personal protective equipment (PPE)** for health care workers on the front lines.
- COVID-19 screening leads to **quick identification of cases, quick treatment for those people, and immediate isolation** to prevent spread.
- This screening helps us **better understand how much COVID-19 we have in our facilities; whereas before, only symptomatic cases were being identified**. The advantage of expanded screening is that it reveals those who may have contracted the virus but remain asymptomatic.

Providers will want to use the following test names:

For admissions via emergency department:  
SARS COV 2 RNA Real Time RT PCT (ED) (EPIC Test Code – LAB 10321)

For admissions via direct or transfer admit, as well as inpatients and patients in observation settings:  
SARS COV 2 RNA Real Time RT PCT (Direct or Transfer Admit / Inpt. / Obs.) (EPIC Test Code – LAB 10321)

In addition, we continue to ramp up services with the reopening of our sleep centers, effective today, Monday, May 18. We have received clarification that Ohio's overnight stay restriction does not apply to a sleep study (unlike an elective surgery).

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to ask any member of your health care team.