



To Our Valued Patients and Family Members,

Nothing matters more to us during your stay than your safety and peace of mind. Premier Health is committed to ensuring you have a caring, comfortable environment in which to heal.

Given various public health initiatives to slow the spread of COVID-19, we are implementing universal COVID-19 screening of patients admitted to our hospitals for several reasons:

- Expansion of screening is a **key part of Ohio's plan to ramp up many health care services**. The growth in screening also will help ensure that the Dayton 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, will help to contain such outbreaks as they occur.**
- Increasing screening capacity also will play a **key role in efforts to conserve personal protective equipment (PPE)** for health care workers on the front lines.
- **COVID-19 screening enhances our care**, leading to **quick identification of cases, quick treatment for those people, and immediate isolation** to prevent spread.
- 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. Simply put, more screening keeps you safer.
- On April 19, 2020, the **Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recommended that health care providers** coordinate with local and state public health officials, and to **review the availability of COVID-19 screening capacity** (along with personal protective equipment (PPE) and other supplies, workforce availability, and facility readiness) **when making the decision to re-start or increase in-person care**.

COVID-19 screening is just one of many ways that we are working to ensure your safety during your stay. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask any member of your health care team.