Premier Health

Memo

To:　　All Staff

From:　Roberto Colón, MD, Vice President of Quality and Safety
　　　　　Allison Wentland, MSN, RN, Director of Infection Control and Prevention

Date:　June 19, 2020

RE:　　COVID-19 Update

This is an update on COVID-19 and other related topics. Since our health care system has stabilized enough to come out of a system Code Yellow, our pace of change has stabilized, and we have stopped the daily recap emails. However, it is still important to communicate updates. Therefore, we will plan to send out an update about every one to two weeks.

Patients who are positive for COVID-19:

- Staff caring for a patient who has tested positive for COVID-19 should wear the following Personal Protection Equipment (PPE): Gown, isolation mask, eye protection (face shield, googles, or safety glasses), and gloves.
- An N95 or PAPR is <u>not</u> required in the <u>routine</u> care of these patients (see below).

N95 Respirators:

- **Hospital issued, fit -tested N95s respirators may only be worn in clinical situations where its use is recommended.**
- A fit-tested N95s should be worn *for all COVID-19 positive or COVID-19 suspected patients only during aerosol-generating procedures* (AGP). Examples of AGPs include:
    - Aerosolized admin of meds
    - Airway surgeries such as ENT, thoracic
    - Breaking a closed vent system, such as open suctioning
    - Bronchoscopy
    - Chest physical therapy
    - Endoscopy procedures
    - High flow Oxygen (> 15 lpm)
    - Intubation/Extubation
    - Manual bag/mask ventilation without filtration
    - Noninvasive pressure ventilation, such as CPAP or BiPAP
    - Pulmonary function testing
    - Sputum induction
    - Trach Care
    - Other clinical or surgical procedures that may aerosolize infectious agents

- More information will be coming soon with updates on N95s include proper use and storage, reuse guidelines, exchange process, and an FAQ.

Conservation of PPE:
- Across Premier Health, we have moved out of the most stringent PPE conservation strategies. For patients in isolation, only certain forms of eye protection may be reused as all PPE in isolation patients is intended for single use and should be discarded appropriately after use. Please reference the memo issued June 5th for more details.

Current Situation and Summary of COVID-19 cases:
- Locally:
  - The first positive case at Premier Health was in early March. We have since cared for almost 400 patients who have tested positive for COVID-19. Although we have seen some variation by site, the highest volume was in April and we may see more cases in June than we did in May.
  - We have done an amazing job responding to the pandemic! Keep up the great work!
  - Many resources are available on the Coronavirus Resources website: https://premierhealth.sharepoint.com/covid19/Pages/home.aspx
- Ohio:
  - The first positive case was reporting in Ohio on March 9, 2020 and has increased to 43,122 total cases (as of 6/18/2020). The spread has been fairly flat since the end of April.
  - Many resources are available on the Ohio Department of Health Coronavirus website: https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/home
- Nationally:
  - The first positive case was reported in the US on January 21, 2020 and there are now over 2 million confirmed cases. The US has seen a slight decrease in new cases since the end of April.
  - Many resources are available on the Center for Disease Control Coronavirus website: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html
- Globally:
  - The first positive case was reported in Wuhan City, China in December 2019 and has spread to over 8 million confirmed cases worldwide. The rate of spread has varied country by country.
  - Many resources are available on the World Health Organization COVID-19 pandemic website: https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019

How you can help:
- Follow the strict disinfecting and physical distancing protocols, at work and elsewhere. Help stop the spread in our communities.
- Wear a mask at all times when in the workplace. Reference policy.
- If you are feeling ill, do NOT come to work.
- Continue to review these memos for more updates!