This Incident Command Center News Break is being distributed separate from the regular Sparrow News Break

All Caregivers

Coronavirus Update

On March 10, 2020, Sparrow leadership was notified that a nursing student had been in close contact with someone who tested positive for coronavirus. That student was working in Sparrow Hospital on March 9, 2020.

Here’s what we know:

- On March 11, 2020, Sparrow leadership advised the student, classmates, and instructor not to report to Sparrow Hospital.
- The student was not symptomatic at the time of the potential exposure and is not sick now. The likelihood of the student having or spreading coronavirus is very low.
- Sparrow has implemented our process for potential exposure regarding this situation.
- The Ingham County Health Department will be monitoring the student.
- At this time, the student does not meet the criteria as set forth by the CDC for testing for Coronavirus.
- We fully anticipate we will have similar situations in the future. We will continue to follow the guidance of the Ingham County Health Department and the CDC.

Coronavirus Update - Caregiver Personal Travel:

Effective immediately, consistent with the recommendation of the CDC, Sparrow Health System is implementing a Travel Screening Form for use. This form will now be required to be completed and submitted to EmployeeHealth@sparrow.org for any and all Caregivers who have travelled to an impacted area within the past 14 days.

Contact with Employee Health and clearance based on CDC guidelines must be obtained prior to reporting for work.

Caregivers that travel to a Level 3 country must contact Employee Health upon return. As of March 11, 2020, CDC defines Level 3 (Warning) countries as China, South Korea, Iran and Italy. Caregivers returning from a Level 3 country, must notify their Department Leader and Employee Health as soon as possible via phone/email. Caregivers will be required to be off work at least 14 days and need to be cleared by Employee Health prior to returning to work.

Caregivers that travel to a Level 2 country must contact Employee Health upon return. As of March 11, 2020, CDC defines Level 2 (Alert) countries as Japan. Caregivers returning from a Level 2 country, must notify their Department Leader and Employee Health prior to reporting to work. Caregivers can return to work and will have their symptoms monitored for 14 days.
Caregivers who are required to remain at home consistent with these guidelines will have any absences treated under our Administrative Absence policy and related articles of our collective bargaining agreements.


**N95 and Simple Mask Update:**
This Sparrow Health System guidance is given to provide clarity about the need and appropriate use of N95 masks in accordance with CDC guidelines. For patients with mild respiratory symptoms, droplet precautions (simple mask) should be initiated. For patients with severe respiratory illness, who can benefit from hospital care, referral to the hospital is recommended. N-95 masks are utilized by Caregivers in hospital environments that have the ability to provide airborne isolation and during certain invasive respiratory procedures. All Caregivers utilizing N-95 masks have been evaluated by fit testing. N95 masks are being reserved for Caregivers who work in areas where airborne isolation is available, consistent with CDC guidelines. The best way to provide Caregiver protection in other care environments and during transport of patients is the placement of a simple surgical mask on the patient.

Can N95 Masks be re-used?
YES for patients isolated for tuberculosis ONLY. For coronavirus, N95 masks should not be reused.

**Coronavirus Testing Protocol:**
- Sparrow Clinicians can order COVID-19 testing based on their clinical judgment after evaluating a patient and discussing their illness and history with them. Currently, clinicians are encouraged to test for other causes of acute severe respiratory illness (e.g. atypical pneumonia, influenzas, etc.) as part of their initial evaluation given the more commonplace occurrence of these other germs. We should reserve COVID-19 testing for only those cases when the results will make a difference in the clinical plan for the patient. Instances of this difference might include patients who have no identified pathogen and have severe illness which must be hospitalized or receive care in another institutionalized setting. If hospital care is required, delay specimen collection until hospital arrival. **Do not send patients to the hospital if hospital care is not required.** Submit nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swabs collected under standard/droplet precautions. Order a Miscellaneous Test (EPIC code 1295) and type COVID-19. Expected turnaround time is 48 hours.

**What can you do?**
- Cover your cough
- Stay home if you’re sick
- Practice good hand hygiene and avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Clean and disinfect frequently used surfaces daily
- For more information, visit Sparrow.org/Coronavirus

*Sparrow has been the healthcare leader, caring for this community for 124 years. Thank you for continuing to provide outstanding care for the communities we serve, 24/7/365. Take care of yourselves and your families. Thank you for all you do.*