

Dear Acuity Patients and Family Members,

I am writing today to assure you that we are prepared to meet our patient's critical care needs and have the necessary precautions and screenings in place to protect our patients, family members and our employee owners.

Acuity Healthcare hospitals are well prepared for the international outbreak of COVID-19 or novel coronavirus disease 2019.

International outbreak of COVID-19 or novel coronavirus disease 2019

Background:

- COVID-19 is a mild to severe respiratory illness that is spread from person to person mainly when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It is also believed that the illness can spread when a person touches a surface that has been infected, then touches their face.
- It is believed that COVID-19 is transmissible for up to 14 days, even before symptoms are noted.
- COVID-19 originated in Wuhan, China, but has since spread around most of the world including the United States.
- Symptoms include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Some patients develop pneumonia, multi-system organ failure, and death.
- Older adults, the elderly, and immunocompromised patients are most at risk for serious complications of COVID-19. This makes Acuity Specialty Hospital's patients especially high risk.

Risk of COVID-19 transmission from Patient Admissions: Our pre-hospital screening has expanded to include signs and symptoms of coronavirus. If a patient has traveled outside the US or has symptoms or contact with a known vector, the case has to be reviewed by the Infection Control Practitioner before we can make an admission decision. All of our patients will have to be cleared before admission to an Acuity facility.

Risk of COVID-19 transmission from staff travel/outside exposure: All work related travel has been restricted. Personal travel is discouraged. Our staff is instructed to fully disclose any travel they may have either planned or returned from being out of the country. Staff is asked to report their temperature and any symptoms of respiratory illness for at least the first 14 days back in the country.

Risk of COVID-19 transmission from visitors to hospital: Our visitor policy restricts anyone under 14 and those with contact, symptoms, and/or travel history. The number of visitors may be restricted.

We are working closely with local health departments and we are committed to remaining diligent in review of the rapidly evolving news and encourage you to reach out to your healthcare provider with any questions.

Judy K. Weaver, R.N., M.B.A., B.S.N.
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