



MEMORANDUM

To: All Medical Staff Members & Associates
From: Kevin Shiley, MD, Infection Prevention and Control
Date: March 2, 2020
RE: Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Dear Colleagues,

Catholic Health Infection Prevention, Emergency Preparedness and Senior Leadership are engaged in ongoing preparations for COVID-19 cases in our community. The extent of COVID-19 infections in the United States is currently unknown. However, it is appropriate to assume that COVID-19 infections will occur in this region and a Task Force is assembled to manage the situation.

Due to the dynamic nature of this outbreak it is expected that screening and isolation protocols will require frequent updates. A Coronavirus web link will be available on the CHS intranet. The link will provide updated information on screening, PPE, isolation and other relevant questions you may have. Providers and associates should routinely review this link for any updates.

In response to the rising volume of U.S. cases, the COVID-19 Task Force will be instituting drills across ministries to optimize our response to anticipated cases. In addition, refresher training on PPE will be offered across ministries.

Finally, a new screening algorithm for COVID-19 is attached to guide decision making. A screening hotline is listed on this algorithm to call when screening suggests further action. The hotline will be manned by Infectious Disease experts that will guide callers on next steps and actions.

Please note that all positive COVID-19 screen notifications should go to the CHS internal COVID-19 hotline (716-923-0670). The hotline infection specialist will engage in ALL communications with the Department of Health. Other non-emergent questions regarding COVID-19 should be handled through your site's infection prevention department.

Mercy Hospital of Buffalo/MACC – Tara Graham – 481-4729
Kenmore Mercy/ Mount St. Mary's – Jennifer Carlson – 220-1110
Sisters of Charity Main Street & St. Joe's Campus – Michele Inglut – 462-7644

Thank you for all that you do to keep our patients, staff and visitors safe.