

Preventing COVID-19 Transmission in Hospitals

Cases of COVID-19 are increasing at all Catholic Health hospitals due to a rise in community transmission. Please review the following reminders regarding PPE and Symptom Monitoring.

Care of Asymptomatic Patients

- Caregivers should wear a surgical mask covering their mouth and nose whenever they are in the vicinity of a patient that is not known or suspected to have COVID-19.
- Patients should be asked to wear a mask whenever caregivers are in the room and when they are being transported unless there is a contraindication to do so.
- Caregivers are encouraged to wear eye protection if they are interacting with an asymptomatic patient who cannot wear a mask.
- Hand hygiene should be performed before and after touching any patient or anything in the patient's room.
- Room curtains should be drawn between patients in shared patient rooms.

Care of Suspected & Confirmed COVID-19 Patients

- Wear a gown, gloves, eye protection and an N95 mask or higher respirator.
- Keep the room door closed.
- Patients should be asked to wear a mask whenever caregivers are in the room and if they are being transported unless there is a contraindication to do so.
- Hand hygiene should be performed before and after touching any patient or anything in the patient's room.

Keeping Co-Workers Safe

- Caregivers should wear a mask whenever in the same room as another coworker unless eating or drinking.
- If eating or drinking, caregivers should maintain at least six feet of separation from others while unmasked.
- Wipe down common surfaces and equipment with an EPA registered disinfectant wipe after use.
- Caregivers should not come to work if they are feeling ill. If symptoms of COVID-19 are present, caregivers should seek testing through associate health or through the community.
- Caregivers awaiting COVID-19 test results should not work unless they receive negative test results.
- Avoid high risk activities outside of work such as large gatherings and social engagements with unmasked friends or family (except household members).