

Press Release
March 16, 2020
Monadnock Community Hospital

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A message from Cynthia K. McGuire, FACHE, President and CEO:

At Monadnock Community Hospital, our first concern is taking care of you and our community. We opened our Incident Command Emergency Preparedness on February 26th, in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) situation. We are meeting around the clock to plan, prepare, and coordinate our efforts to care for our patients and community. Our clinical leaders have been in daily contact with the NH Department of Public Health, the NH Hospital Association as well as area hospitals and healthcare providers, to share the most current precautions and information with our patients, staff and visitors.

It is critically important that we all take care of ourselves. In addition to frequent hand washing and covering coughs and sneezes, we all must practice social distancing. Please limit exposure to others as much as possible. As uncomfortable as this is, we must do what we can to control the spread of COVID-19. Thank you all for your cooperation as we work to keep the community calm, informed and healthy. I have full confidence in our fine medical staff and healthcare team at MCH and I am grateful for their dedication and teamwork.

We have made some important temporary changes at MCH to protect our patients and employees from the spread of, and potential exposure to, coronavirus (COVID-19).

Visitor Policy:

Monadnock Community Hospital has instituted a limited visitation policy for all visitors:

- One healthy birthing partner will be permitted for Maternity Delivery patients.
- One healthy person may escort a patient to the Emergency Department.
- One healthy visitor may accompany a patient to our Oncology and Infusion Therapy Center.
- One healthy visitor at a time may visit patients on Comfort Measures Only.
- Other extenuating circumstances will be at the discretion of the nursing supervisor or administrator.

MCH Entrance Restrictions:

Entrances to our buildings have been limited to the following:

- Hospital Main Entrance
- Emergency Department Entrance
- Oncology and Infusion Therapy Center Entrance
- Bond Wellness Center Entrance

In addition to limiting our entrances, we are screening everyone who comes into the hospital for fever, cough, and travel. This includes employees, patients and visitors.

Bond Wellness Center Fitness Program Closure:

We made the decision to temporarily close the Fitness portion of the Bond Wellness Center; this includes all membership access to the Pools, Classes, etc.

Volunteer Program and Use of Conference Rooms:

We have temporary suspended our Volunteer Program as well as the use of our Conference Rooms for outside groups.

Symptoms and Access to Care:

Most patients who have tested positive for COVID-19 have shown the following symptoms:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

If you develop these symptoms, please call your primary care provider before going to their office or to the Emergency Department. If you have traveled to/from countries with a COVID-19 Travel Advisory and develop symptoms of a fever or respiratory illness within 14 days of your travel, contact your primary care provider for evaluation. If you do not have a primary care provider or have questions or concerns, please call 2-1-1, a hot-line staffed by the NH Division of Public Health Services.

We will share changes and information as it becomes available. You can find more information and resources about COVID-19 at www.nh.gov/covid19 and www.cdc.gov as well as MCH's website www.monadnockhospital.org