**MEMORANDUM**

TO:   Physicians

FROM:   Dr. Craig D. Rhyne, Regional Chief Medical Officer

DATE:   March 15, 2020

SUBJECT:   Covenant response to COVID-19

Due to the recent emergency declaration by President Trump, Governor Abbott and Mayor Pope, we have initiated **revised policies** at all Covenant Health facilities.

Covenant Health currently has 0 confirmed patients tested positive for COVID-19. (as of 3/15/2020 at 5:30 pm)

Thank you for your continued commitment to the safety of our patients, visitors and caregivers.

**PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) SUPPLIES**

**(effective immediately)**

* Our **PPE supplies** are being conserved for critical need and we do not expect to receive additional supplies until May.
* PPE should only be used for isolation patients and should not be used for unnecessary purposes. (i.e. walking in hallways, visiting patients NOT in isolation, cafeteria, personal use)
* N95 masks are in critical shortage and can only be used for patients in airborne isolation.
* Science does not support the routine use of wearing a Surgical/N95 mask if you are not directly providing care to a COVID-19 positive patient.
* If we inappropriately use our N95 supply, we will not have masks available when they are actually needed. (OR/isolation)

**VISITOR POLICIES (effective March 17, 2020)**

This may impact your patients that are currently inpatient as well as patients who are scheduled for procedures and/or tests that are outpatient or require an inpatient admission.

We will contact your patients through the notification process. I encourage you and your staff to further educate your patients on the visitor policy.

Please see our designated visitor policies below, as well as policies for specific ministries. Patients scheduled for surgery on Tuesday will be contacted prior to their procedure and/or test.

Inpatients will be notified of the upcoming visitor policy by a member of their care team.

* Safety is our priority. We are taking expanded precautions in light of novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).
* To minimize the risk of spreading COVID-19 or exposing patients and our caregivers, we have modified our visitation policy.
* All visitors **MAY** be subject to a temperature screening. Visitors who do not meet the screening criteria will not be allowed to enter the facility and will receive further instructions at that time.
* This visitor policy allows us to promote safety while conserving supplies needed to treat and control the spread of infectious disease.
* We understand the importance of seeing loved ones while they are receiving care and know the value visitors bring to our patients.
* During this time, we encourage our patients and their loved ones to communicate through phone and video calls.
* Changes to our visitation policy are in effect until further notice. We are monitoring this matter closely and will make adjustments, as necessary.
* If you have any questions about visitation, please ask a member of your care team.
* We appreciate your help in providing a safe environment for our patients, visitors and caregivers.

**MINISTRY/FACILITY POLICIES**

**Covenant Medical Center**

* Maximum 2 visitors at a time (these may be interchanged throughout the patient’s stay)
* Visitors will be subject to temperature screening upon arrival

**Covenant Children’s**

* Pediatric/Obstetric patients are allowed 2 visitors (these may be interchanged throughout the patient’s stay
* Visitors will be subject to temperature screening upon arrival

**Covenant Specialty Hospital**

* Maximum 1 visitor at a time (these may be interchanged after a 7 day patient stay)
* Visitors will be subject to temperature screening upon arrival

**Covenant Medical Group (clinics, urgent care; children’s urgent care)**

* Maximum 2 adult visitors per patient
* Please exercise extreme caution when bringing minors accompanying adults

**Grace Medical Center**

* Maximum 2 visitors at a time (these may be interchanged throughout the patient’s stay)
* Visitors will be subject to temperature screening upon arrival

**Grace Clinic**

* Maximum 2 adult visitors per patient
* Please exercise extreme caution when bringing minors accompanying adults

**Joe Arrington Cancer Treatment & Research Center**

* Maximum 2 visitors at a time (these may be interchanged throughout the patient’s stay)
* Visitors will be subject to temperature screening upon arrival

**Covenant Health Plainview**

* Maximum 2 visitors at a time (these may be interchanged throughout the patient’s stay)
* Visitors will be subject to temperature screening upon arrival

**Covenant Health Levelland**

* Maximum 2 visitors at a time (these may be interchanged throughout the patient’s stay)
* Visitors may be subject to temperature screening upon arrival