



Coronavirus (COVID-2019) Talking Points

DC hospitals continue to deliver quality care for patients and provide a safe working environment for all staff.

- Hospitals are working closely with DC Health, local and regional public health agencies in the National Capitol Region to enhance coordination of emergency response capabilities, increase information exchange and identification of clinical best practices.
- DCHA is actively engaging member hospitals via Infectious Disease/Infection Prevention & Emergency Management Committees to provide regular updates, manage frontline inquiries and identify solutions to shared challenges. Additional activities include:
 - Standardize communication tools for patients and providers
 - Identify subject matter experts to coordinate with local public health officials and District agencies
 - Conduct survey assessments to evaluate potential supply shortages or inventory management issues

Emergency preparedness and response to medical surge is a core function of hospital operations. Hospitals are federally regulated to perform the following functions that include but are not limited to:

- Develop emergency operation plans to address threats, pandemic/highly infectious pathogens.
- Identify processes for communication, infrastructure, staff, patients and visitors.
- Conduct annual exercises and drills on identified threats in compliance with CMS Emergency Preparedness Rule.
- Leadership teams conduct regular meetings to assess facility threats, challenges, and changes to clinical practice with frontline providers, facility operations, and administrative leaders.

As hospitals prepare for the likely spread of COVID-19 in communities throughout the state, numerous operational, testing, supply, licensing, and workforce questions are arising. DCHA will continue to bring these issues to the attention of appropriate DC health officials.

General Information About the Coronavirus (COVID-19) in DC

- As of February 28, 2020, five (5) patients-under-investigation (PUIs) have tested negative in DC, and no cases have been confirmed.
- By order of the Office of the Mayor, the directors of the DC Health and Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency are responsible for coordinating the District's emergency response planning for the potential impacts of COVID-19.
- CDC and DC Health continue to serve as the primary resource for updated guidance and response procedures.

CDC Determines the Risk of Transmission to the Public is Low, Standard Precautions are Still Critical

- Wash you hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Stay home when you are sick
- Avoid close contact with other people who are sick
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using regular household cleaning spray or wipes
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw tissue in the trash
- Get the flu vaccine