

March 24, 2020

COVID-19 Updates (3/24/20)

Munson Healthcare COVID-19 Provider Forums

Please join us for our next COVID-19 Provider Forum Wednesday, March 25, 12:30 – 1 pm.

As you know, things are changing rapidly. Munson Healthcare is hosting an ongoing webinar series to help keep providers up to date on the state of our system and what you need to know. Provider Forums will be available online Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 12:30 – 1 pm.

The Faculty for 3/25/20 will speak on PPE/Supplies:

- Christine Nefcy, MD; Chief Medical Officer, Munson Healthcare
- Mark Deponio, Vice President, System Services, Munson Healthcare

A moderator will also field your questions. Due to time limitations, we won't be able to answer all questions. To submit questions in advance: MHC-COVID-Physician-Questions@mhc.net

Providers and practice staff can easily join from a computer or mobile device.

What: Munson Healthcare COVID-19 Provider Forum

When: Wednesday, March 25, 12:30 – 1 pm

Register: [click here](#)

**If you are unable to attend during the live webinar, you can use this link to watch the webinar later.*

Watch previous Provider Forums:

- [3/20/20](#)
- [3/23/20](#)

**You will be directed to the recording after you register.*

Munson Healthcare Invites Community Support for COVID-19 Outbreak

Monetary donations, PPE products, supporting local organizations, and blood donations

Community support is critical to help Munson Healthcare provide patient care, protect health care workers, and limit community spread of COVID-19. In response to the global shortage of PPE and hospital supplies, Munson Healthcare has identified four ways our community can help us respond to the unprecedented COVID-19 outbreak:

- **CASH DONATIONS TO THE COVID-19 RESPONSE FUND; PATIENT NEEDS FUND**
The COVID-19 Response Fund will help fund medical supplies, medical testing sites, and more. The Munson Healthcare Patient Needs Fund will assist patients during this difficult time with non-medical expenses including transportation, groceries, childcare, and bills. Gift donations are accepted [here](#).

- **DONATING APPROVED PPE AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES INCLUDING HOME-SEWN FACE MASKS**
Beginning today, Munson Healthcare is accepting select medical equipment donations in new or original packaging. Find a complete list of accepted supplies, home-sewn facemask patterns, and recommended materials on our [COVID-19 response Web page](#). For more on home-sewn face mask patterns specifically, see below.
- **SUPPORTING LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS**
We're also asking the community to support local organizations helping families in crisis such as food pantries, homeless shelters, senior centers, and others helping strengthen the safety net of our communities.
- **DONATING BLOOD**
Finally, there is a distinct need for blood donations. Visit www.versiti.org or call **231-935-3030** to schedule a donation appointment.

We're taking many steps to address this crisis, including collaborating with other state hospitals, coordinating advocacy efforts to engage government leaders, and providing education to ensure you are prepared to treat patients with suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19.

For more information on our efforts in this equipment crisis, please visit <https://www.munsonhealthcare.org/services/community-health/covid19/a-message-from-mark-deponio-%7C-munson-healthcare>

Face Mask Donations

Listed below is more information on home-sewn face masks. We reviewed available sewing patterns shared by other health systems and consulted with infectious disease, infection prevention, surgical services, and supply chain experts before choosing this face mask pattern. These same teams are looking into additional homemade face mask patterns that may be viable. Please know that the safety of the Health Care Team is our top priority and we will post new patterns if they are approved. Donated masks will be collected through the Munson Healthcare Foundations. Further instructions and guidance will be provided to staff on how these homemade masks could be used to extend the life of N95 respirator masks as this pandemic evolves. Please look for more details in future communications.

Hand-sewn face masks pattern:

[Download instructions here](#) for creating face masks and watch the [demonstration video here](#).
(Courtesy of Phoebe Health Systems.)

Recommended Material List:

- Operating room linens or other breathable, water-repellent fabric (or cotton fabric if these are unavailable)
- ¼-Inch, 1/8-inch, or 3/8-inch wide elastic
- Pins
- Thimbles
- Fabric scissors
- Heavy paper for patterns
- Cardboard (optional)

- Sewing machine
- Thread

Current drop-off sites and a complete list of new and unused PPE we accept is online here: <http://www.munsonhealthcare.org/foundations/COVID-19-response>.

New PPE Education Videos Available

Click below for links to the following two **new** PPE educational videos:

- [Droplet Contact Precautions – Surgical Mask Donning](#)
- [Droplet Contact Precautions – Surgical Mask Doffing](#)

Also, as a reminder, the following videos are also available to ensure proper use of PPE:

- [CAPR Helmet Donning](#)
- [CAPR Helmet Doffing](#)
- [N95 Respiratory Mask Donning](#)
- [N95 Respiratory Mask Doffing](#)

Please Take Health Screenings and Reduced Entrances Seriously

The health screenings that are taking place at all of our hospitals and select facilities are extremely important to the safety of our Health Care Team, our visitors, and the community at large. It's vital that we take this daily process seriously so remember the following:

- Please answer the screening questions honestly and be respectful of those doing the work. Our screeners are the first line of defense into our buildings and their work is protecting all of us.
- Screeners are no longer asking visitors about recent travel. Now that COVID-19 is being widely transferred via person-to-person contact, travel questions are no longer necessary for determining entrance to our facilities.
- Due to the utmost importance of social distancing, screeners are no longer taking people's temperatures. Please maintain the 6-foot distance between you and your screener.
- **Screeners do not have thermometers** anymore so please do not come to them as a resource for "self-monitoring."
- Attempting to enter the building by "piggybacking" in while someone else exits is unacceptable.
- Anyone attempting to enter the building while you exit must be redirected to an open entrance where health screenings are taking place.
- Given the risk factors of patients in long-term care facilities, there may be a different screening process in place for hospitals that have long-term care facilities onsite, like Paul Oliver Memorial Hospital. Some long-term care facilities are still taking temperatures of staff/visitors entering the buildings.

TC-area Retail Pharmacies Open with Curbside and Local Home Delivery

All Munson Healthcare retail pharmacies are operating under normal business hours with full service to area customers:

- Sixth Street Drugs, Bay Shore Pharmacy, and Empire Pharmacy have transitioned to curbside delivery only for both prescriptions and in-store over-the-counter items. Customers should call ahead to place orders and be prepared to pay with credit or debit card over the phone. Place a second call at arrival and a Pharmacy team member will deliver orders to the parking lot.
- Munson Community Health Center Pharmacy also offers curbside pickup and the store remains open to screened customers permitted to enter Foster Family Community Health Center.
- Customers of all four retail pharmacies should inquire about prescription mail delivery and limited local home delivery to eligible addresses.

Process and Materials for Food Tray Service Remains Unchanged

The process and materials used food tray services to patients should not change. Standard precautions will continue to be used for tray pick up and dishwashing. There is no need to change to disposable items for COVID 19 patients. Our standard process for trays and dishes is appropriate with COVID 19 patients.