

March 21, 2020

COVID-19 Updates (3/21/20 7:00 pm)

Presumptive Positive COVID-19 Cases Identified in Charlevoix and Emmet Counties

Today, the Health Department of Northwest Michigan reported two presumptive positive cases of COVID-19 from residents of Charlevoix and Emmet Counties. Both have no history of travel. These two individuals **did not** seek treatment at any Munson Healthcare facility. Both are isolated at their homes and recuperating.

As always, we will continue to keep you informed of any new COVID-19 developments.

Beginning Today, Governor Whitmer Orders Restrictions on Non-Essential Medical and Dental Procedures

To comply with [this order](#), Munson Healthcare will be making changes to many services, including but not limited to:

- Women's and Children's Services
- Radiology Services
- Oncology Services
- Surgical Services
- Cardiovascular Services
- Behavioral Health
- Pain Procedures
- Office-based Procedures

More details on these services will be provided as soon as they are available. Please check both munsonhealthcare.org/COVID-19Providers and the [COVID-19 IntraNet homepage](#) for these updates.

Immediate Changes to Radiology Services

Diagnosing COVID-19 and Reducing Risk of On-Site COVID-19 Infection

- Imaging (all modalities) should only be used for COVID-19 patients when it will impact patient care management.
- CT should not be used to screen for or be used as a first-line test to diagnose COVID-19.
- CT for COVID-19 should be used sparingly and reserved for only those hospitalized, symptomatic patients with appropriate specific clinical indications for CT. All appropriate infection control procedures must be followed before scanning subsequent patients.
- Munson Healthcare is using portable radiography units when x-ray is medically necessary, not for screening.

- Care teams must follow standardized hospital protocols for decontaminating imaging rooms/equipment, especially CT scanners, after caring for a COVID-19 patient. Please note that this will take the CT scanner off-line for extended periods of time in compliance with the protocols that must be followed, making them unavailable to other patients.
- You may be contacted by an imaging team member if there are questions regarding the imaging being ordered on behalf of your patients. This is to ensure appropriate guidelines are being followed.

Please make sure to screen your patients following the most up to date guidelines so that appropriate arrangements can be made and the necessary precautions can be taken if imaging is needed. For the latest MHC guidelines please refer to the Compass, munsonhealthcare.org/COVID-19Providers, or the [COVID-19 IntraNet homepage](#).

Ordering Non-Urgent Radiology Exams

As health care providers, it has never been more important to be good stewards of our resources and take precautions to ensure the safety of our patients and staff. COVID-19 will continue to evolve, and there will inevitably be supply shortages. We need to make sure we have enough Radiology resources available to our patients who are coming to us for help. Please keep this top of mind and reserve our Radiology resources for the people who really need them. Your radiologists are here to assist you with discussing your patients' needs and determining next best steps. Please do not hesitate to call the Radiology group that serves your local MHC Facility for questions. Those groups include:

- Grand Traverse Region/Grand Traverse Radiologists – **231-935-7133** for assistance 7am - 11 pm or have the on-call radiologist paged outside of these hours
- Otsego Memorial Hospital Outpatient Services – **989-731-2175**
- Manistee Hospital Diagnostic Imaging – **231-398-1147**

The American College of Radiology (ACR) fully supports and recommends compliance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDS) guidance that advises medical facilities to “reschedule non-urgent outpatient visits as necessary.” <https://www.acr.org/Clinical-Resources/COVID-19-Radiology-Resources>

