

MEDIA ADVISORY #6

Date: March 23rd, 2020
Contact: Diane Ludwig, Centra Public Information Officer
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Centra will be hosting a media briefing on Tuesday, March 24th at 11am., in the Centra Support Building, 1920 Atherholt Rd. Lynchburg, VA. To maintain proper distancing, we ask that you please condense your attendance to one person per media outlet.

With local transmission confirmed, Centra's plans are changing rapidly to prevent the further spread of this virus. The following information is a synopsis of Centra's current initiatives.

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- We are strongly encouraging our community members to practice social distancing, staying home when they can, and avoiding public places unless absolutely necessary. Centra is embarking on a PSA series to keep our community safe.
 - Our current environment: Centra does not currently have any COVID-19 positive in-patients in any of our facilities, however, we do continue to test regularly. Our region has several positive community confirmations who have tested at one of our facilities on an outpatient basis. We continue to work closely with the Virginia Department of Health.
 - We are asking our community to please refrain from visiting the hospital, unless medical care is needed or to accompany the following;
 - For obstetrical patients, one individual visitor will be permitted
 - For pediatric patients, one individual visitor will be permitted (parent or legal guardian)
 - For surgical/procedural patients, one individual visitor will be permitted
 - For end of life care, two visitors will be permitted.
 - Approved visitors as well as outpatients with scheduled appointments will be screened prior to entry
 - Right now, all Centra facilities have a sufficient supply of medical grade general/procedural masks our front-line caregivers and patients require to protect themselves. We've received many requests from our community inquiring about handmade masks. The outpouring of support is tremendous, and we are humbled by how many are choosing to support our community and organization by making and donating cloth masks. We are actively setting up drop off locations across our region but have established a drop-off location at the Centra Dawson Inn in Lynchburg. Handmade, 100% cotton masks may be dropped off

at this location, and in the near future, we are partnering with Gleaning for the World who will also be establishing additional drop-off locations.

- **Effective today:** Centra Medical Group will be restricting elective clinic visits for all patients regardless of age which is a change from the previous situation that only involved patients over 70 years old with non-essential visits. Centra Medical Group will be contacting patients who have scheduled appointments and working to reschedule them or carry out the needs of the patient over the phone if necessary. These elective appointments will be determined by the clinics as not being “acute or urgent” and considered routine follow-up clinic visits. Centra Medical Group leadership has advanced to these clinic limitations for all age patients because of further widespread COVID-19 transmission. Centra is currently expanding our telehealth capabilities to allow our community to stay connected with their provider during this time.

Centra has set up a hotline for individuals inquiring about COVID-19: 434.200.1225.