

March 15, 2020

Sent on behalf of Alonzo Lewis and David Vandenberg, MD

St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor and Livingston Colleagues and Medical Staff,

It is inevitable that numerous patients with COVID-19 will be in our care, and our outstanding care teams know exactly what to do. St. Joe's cares for patients every day who have respiratory illnesses and infectious disease, including seasonal flu and influenza-like illnesses (abbreviated ILIs). We have smart and dedicated colleagues – you – caring for these patients. Our COVID-19 preparedness efforts began in January not long after the virus was identified.

With the first cases of COVID-19 confirmed in in Washtenaw County, we continue to be in close communication with Michigan Medicine and MDCH. Both health systems have patients confirmed with the virus. While we have and will continue to care for most patients in their homes, some patients have required inpatient admission. We will follow all the necessary precautions in caring for these patients and colleagues.

Take Care of Yourself: It's vital you take care of yourselves and your families. If you are well, we need you here. If you are sick, stay home and rest. Follow guidelines from the CDC, [Trinity Health's HR Guidance](#), and our own messages these past several weeks.

Privacy: It is paramount that we respect the privacy of our patients. Unauthorized access to patients' health records violates patients' privacy and St. Joe's policies. If you hear that a colleague, friend or anyone receiving care is suspected of having COVID-19, you must not access their record for any reason other than for direct patient care. Our privacy officers provide timely [HIPAA reminders](#).

Media: St. Joe's protects the privacy of our patients and does not comment on their treatment. That includes commenting on whether a person is a patient at our hospital. Refer all media calls to our media pager at 734-670-5370.

Patient Screenings

The Emergency Department has activated a screening team to serve those who present with symptoms. Working together, doctors, nurses and techs assembled fully stocked, heated medical tents outside the ED entrance. Front-line colleagues have screening tools to question patients about travel histories and symptoms.

COVID-19 Coordination: We have opened a system-wide incident management center to coordinate COVID-19-related activities among our hospitals and ambulatory locations that aligns with the most up-to-date guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Michigan Department of Health. We are reviewing how best to manage supplies, elective procedures, and much more.

We will continue to face the challenges ahead with the same spirit we bring to work each and every day, and we will keep you informed via email, memo, and our [COVID-19 page](#). We thank you for your unwavering commitment to our mission and the people we are privileged to serve.

Thank you,

Alonzo Lewis

Chief Operating Officer
St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor

David Vandenberg, MD

Chief Medical Officer

