

May 15, 2020

Dear Medical Staff,

We want to thank you for your ongoing commitment to caring for our patients, our community, and each other. This COVID-19 pandemic has posed unprecedented challenges that have created a sense of uncertainty and anxiety for both our St. Joe's patients and providers, alike. As we work toward returning hospital services to the "new-normal", we are taking every precaution possible to ensure that our facility is safe.

The postponement of certain surgeries, procedures and visits was necessary to protect the lives of all our patients. Now that Michigan has begun to "flatten the curve" after seeing a peak of COVID-19 cases, St. Joe's Ann Arbor is resuming necessary services while enhancing safety precautions already in place. We are taking a phased approach in resuming select services and surgeries to provide the clinically necessary care for our patients.

Using CDC, CMS and state guidance, we are confident that we have created a safe environment for patients, colleagues, and providers for the resumption of delayed urgent and elective procedures. Steps that have been enacted are:

- Designated "COVID-free" zones to minimize any risk of infection. These are designated areas for patients not known to have COVID-19 or associated symptoms.
- We screen everyone for illness, including a temperature check, prior to entering the hospital.
- We provide and require masks to be worn by everyone throughout our facility.
- We are following the CDC's COVID-19 standards in regards to facility cleaning - with increased frequency and special attention to frequently touched areas, like doorknobs and flat surfaces.
- We remain closed to visitors, except for compassionate visits, which includes L&D units, hospice care, pediatric care, and companions for outpatient surgeries and procedures. Compassionate visits are limited to one "negative COVID screened" visitor age 18+, per patient at a time.

In addition, all patients scheduled for **elective procedures** will be tested prior to their surgery/procedure. If the test result is negative, the procedure will continue as planned in a "COVID-Free" Zone. If the patient tests positive, it will be determined if the procedure can be safely postponed until a negative result is obtained. Otherwise, the procedure may continue urgently via our COVID-19 precaution pathway.

For those patients scheduled for an **elective outpatient non-invasive test**, symptom screening for COVID will be performed at the time of their appointment. If patients fail screening, they will be directed toward a testing site. These patients will then be rescheduled after their COVID status is determined. Asymptomatic patients will continue with their appointment according to the guidelines above.

We welcome reengaging with your patients, both urgent and elective, in our hospital clinics and sites, and you can be assured that pathways have been developed to maximize your patient's safety in these settings.

The safety of our patients, colleagues and providers is our top priority as we navigate this unprecedented challenge. Thank you again for all you do. We are so grateful for your dedication to patient care and for your continued engagement as we address the COVID-19 pandemic together.

Be well,

Alonzo Lewis
President

David Vandenberg, MD
Chief Medical Officer

Katy Hoffman, RN
Chief Nursing Officer

David Fugenschuh, MD
Chief of Staff