

# **ELECTRA HOSPITAL DISTRICT**

## **COVID-19 RESPONSE**

### **PURPOSE**

To outline process changes necessary due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **POLICY**

Electra Hospital District will take measures to help prevent and/or reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19.

### **PROCEDURE**

#### A. District Services

1. The District follows local Health Department and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations for COVID-19 prevention, testing, and treatment.
2. Some District services may be unavailable or limited during the COVID-19 pandemic (i.e. Fitness Center, Imagination Station). The District works diligently to communicate any change in services to the community.
3. Electra Medical Clinic, Iowa Park Clinic and Park Clinic patients that do not require a face-to-face visit have the option of a telemedicine visit. Telemedicine visits are performed via telephone or via a secure platform that provides both audio and video.
4. Drive-through COVID-19 specimen collection is available at the Electra Memorial Hospital Emergency Department by appointment only.

#### B. Screening

1. Patients, visitors and unvaccinated employees may be screened for the following prior to entering a District facility or performing/receiving District services.
  - A positive viral test for SARS-CoV-2
  - Symptoms of COVID-19

- Close contact with someone with SARS-CoV-2 infection or a higher-risk exposure (for healthcare personnel)
2. Electra Tri-Med Ambulance attempts to screen patients prior to providing services, but this is not always possible due to the emergent nature of the services. Patients that cannot be screened prior to receiving services will be screened while being treated/transported if possible. Any patients that cannot be screened due to their condition (i.e. unconscious) will be treated as potentially infectious.

#### C. Limited Access

1. Access to certain areas/departments within the Hospital is limited. Employees are encouraged to remain in their respective departments as much as possible.
2. Access to the Hospital Dining Room is limited to employees only. Patients and their visitors will be served in the patient rooms.
3. Access to District facilities may be further restricted or relaxed on a case-by-case basis depending on the circumstances of each facility and status of the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### D. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

1. Patients, visitors and employees must wear a face covering while in District facilities. The facility will provide a face covering, if necessary.
2. Employees may remove face covering if working in a private office but must don face covering if another individual enters or if the employee leaves their office.
3. Employees providing direct patient care should wear KN95 masks, if available. Other necessary PPE (goggles, face shield, gloves and/or gown) may be donned as warranted by the situation.
4. Employees providing direct patient care to COVID-19 positive patients or patients under investigation (PUI) should wear the following PPE.
  - N95 mask or respirator
  - Goggles or face shield
  - Gloves
  - Gown

5. PPE should be doffed outside the room or treatment area and immediately placed in marked trash cans outside the exam room.

#### E. Patient Routing

1. Positive COVID-19 patients or patients under investigation (patients who fail screening) will be kept separated from other patients.
2. In order to prevent congestion in the lobby and waiting areas, patients with longer wait times may be asked to wait in their vehicles. An employee will notify the patient when ready.

#### F. COVID-19 Testing

1. Electra Memorial Hospital performs molecular and rapid COVID-19 testing. The Hospital may also refer specimens to an outside laboratory.
2. The clinics provide rapid COVID-19 testing and specimen collection for molecular COVID-19 testing which is then referred to an outside laboratory.
3. COVID-19 testing or specimen collection may be limited at times due to availability of supplies, staffing, or other issues.
4. Employees performing specimen collection will wear appropriate PPE.
5. Patients will be notified of results when available and provided isolation/quarantine information based on local Health Department recommendations.

#### G. Barriers and Social Distancing

1. The District has placed plexiglass barriers in admission/registration and screening areas throughout its facilities.
2. Seating in waiting rooms has been reduced and markers have been placed on the floor throughout facilities to help encourage social distancing.

#### H. Environmental Cleaning

1. The District is performing heightened environmental cleaning per CDC recommendations within all facilities and with all services.
2. The following environmental cleaning principals apply to all areas:

- Wear recommended personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Perform cleaning in a clockwise or counterclockwise direction to ensure a systematic process.
- Wipe surfaces from top to bottom.
- Only use Hospital approved disinfectants and maintain the appropriate wet time to disinfect per the disinfectant's instructions for use.
- If a surface is visibly soiled, remove soil first, and then disinfect the surface.
- Clean restroom surfaces last.

#### I. Vaccination

1. All Clinic staff, volunteers, students, and contractors will be vaccinated against COVID-19 per COVID-19 Immunization policy and procedure and CMS Conditions of Participation.
2. The Clinic promotes and provides COVID-19 vaccination to the community.

## REFERENCES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), *Healthcare Infection Prevention and Control FAQs for COVID-19*, page last updated May 29, 2020.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), *Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 (covid-19) in Healthcare Settings*, page last updated May 18, 2020.

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/index.html>