



Update to Visitor Restrictions Policy

March 20, 2020

Midwest Medical Center Campus:

Inpatient Unit:

- Beginning March 20, 2020, **no visitors will be allowed in the inpatient area until further notice.**

Emergency Department:

- One visitor per Emergency Department patient.
- These exceptions will allow the visitor to enter the facility, after screening, and go to the patient's bedside.
- No visitors are allowed to wait in the lobby or waiting rooms.

All Patients and Visitors:

- Starting March 23, 2020, visitors who are allowed will be screened for symptoms, travel and contact history, and temperature checked by our staff at the door.
- Visitors who are experiencing any cold or flu-like symptoms (e.g., fever, cough), travel history or close contact with symptomatic persons returning from areas with high geographic infection will not be allowed and instructed to return home.
- We encourage family, caregivers and friends to use alternative methods of communications such as phone or video chat.

Galena Stauss Senior Care Campus:

- **No visitors are allowed at this location until further notice.**

We understand these restrictions will be difficult for patients and their loved ones.

Cancellation of Elective Surgeries & Procedures- Beginning March 23, 2020

We are committed to ensuring that all our patients have access to the care they need as well as remaining committed to our community by ensuring that our staff, supplies and resources remain available for the evolving COVID-19 pandemic.

Surgery staff will review scheduled procedures and identify those that can be postponed while ensuring optimal patient care. Staff will connect with patients to advise them of these changes and rationale for postponement.

We understand that this decision will cause inconvenience for our patients and staff. Please be assured that we will be making every effort to reschedule these surgeries and procedures as soon as possible. Urgent and emergent procedures will continue as needed.

Cancellation of Non-Urgent Outpatient Services - Beginning March 23, 2020

Non-urgent outpatient departments will notify patients affected by these changes.

General Information

- Vista Café is closed to the public until further notice.
- Midwest Health & Fitness is closed until further notice.
- Whispering Willow Gift Shop is closed until further notice.
- Community & group meetings hosted at MMC have been cancelled until further notice.
- Vendors who do not provide direct healthcare services will not be allowed to visit.
- Pet visitation is suspended until further notice.
- Adult Day Care services are closed until further notice.

How is Midwest Medical Center Prepared?

MMC is closely monitoring and responding to any new developments received from the CDC and state & local health authorities. Our providers, nurses, staff, and administrators have developed a plan that will be enacted if patients with symptoms present to the hospital.

COVID-19 Testing

Midwest Medical Center (MMC) is following IDPH & CDC's testing criteria and will not test patients with mild symptoms, such as cough and fever, due to the limited number of COVID-19 test kits available nationwide. To determine who gets tested for the virus, MMC follows CDC and IDPH guidelines, which includes evaluating for relevant symptoms, travel history and potential exposure.

Currently, MMC is prioritizing testing to only patients who meet IDPH & CDC established criteria:

Requesting COVID-19 Testing at IDPH Laboratories Interim Guidance (*subject to change*); March 19, 2020

New IDPH Testing Requirements

Because of COVID-19 test kit and supply constraints, the IDPH laboratories will only accept:

- **Specimens from hospitalized patients with severe acute lower respiratory illness (e.g., pneumonia) or**
- **Specimens from clusters in a congregate setting that serves more vulnerable populations such as a supportive care facility, assisted living facility, group home, homeless shelter, or correctional setting.**

In order to minimize exposure to the public, patients and healthcare workers, we advise patients with mild symptoms to STAY HOME and self-isolate. If you suspect you may have COVID-19, please speak with your primary care provider via phone.

There is currently no drive-through testing option available at Midwest Medical Center.

As things change, we will keep our staff, patients and community updated.