

January 7, 2020



Covid-19 Alert

Current Pandemic Challenges for Healthcare Workers

As predicted, the Covid-19 virus is showing no mercy, particularly as it relates to healthcare workers. Our primary goal is to keep our staff and physicians safe while continuing to serve the community. We have physicians who have contracted Covid as well as members of our clinical staff.

- We continue to work with Riverside County and the California Department of Public Health to obtain the resources we need, including clinical staff and physicians. Unfortunately, every hospital needs additional resources.
- Blythe Clinic, PVH Clinic, Dr. Brooks and Dr. Rodriguez are still seeing patients. Please seek **non-emergent** care through those settings so we can conserve our resources for those truly sick patients who need emergency resources.
- We are working to expand our clinic services so we can better meet community needs during this pandemic.



Resources and supplies are still being allocated to all health care facilities. This includes Personal Protective Equipment such as masks, gloves, gowns, and other items. We continue to order, monitor use, and initiate the appropriate requisitions to Riverside County as needed.

Stop the Surge Transmission

- Wear a mask indoors and outdoors.
- Stay at least 6 feet away from others who do not live with you.
- Avoid crowded, poorly ventilated indoor spaces.
- Wash your hands and disinfect surfaces frequently.
- Get a flu shot as soon as possible.
- Consider getting the Covid vaccine when available to the community.



Patient Care Strategies During a Pandemic

During these challenging times, all hospitals are required to submit Crisis Care Standards that will be carried out when resources continue to be scarce and patients who need care overwhelm the system. Staffing and other resources are insufficient to meet the demand in hospitals all over the country. The immediate challenges are different for every hospital.

Within this context, every hospital has been required to submit, to the California Department of Health, their plans for delivering the care for the patient population while resources are scarce or limited because of staffing, space, or supplies.

We are posting our crisis care standards on the website, these are the standards that have been submitted to the Department of Health, as required. The definitions for the various level of care are as follows:

Conventional Capacity

The space and supplies are consistent with daily institutional practice. These practices and spaces are used during a major mass casualty incident that triggers or activates the emergency operations plan.

Contingency Capacity

The spaces, staff and supplies used are not consistent with daily practice but provide care to standard that is functionally equivalent to usual patient care practices. These spaces or practices may be used temporarily during a major event or incident or on a more sustained basis during a pandemic or epidemic.

Crisis Capacity

Adaptive spaces, staff and supplies are not consistent with usual standards of care but provide sufficiency of care in the setting of a catastrophic event. Crisis capacity activation constitutes a major adjustment to standards of care.

We continue to try and transfer patients to other facilities, including those out of California. We are using our ICU as a back-up to the Emergency Department to try and get patients who are less sick in and out as fast as possible while we care for the more ill patients who present to the emergency department.