COVID-19 *MEDICAL STAFF UPDATE*
Helen Keller Hospital

Key Updates:

COVID-19 Unit

If you would be willing to volunteer for the COVID-19 Unit please contact Dr. Mark Smith at smith3631@bellsouth.net.

COVID-19 Testing Update

Positive Test: Cumulative	ED patients tested: Previous Day ONLY	Current Inpatients being evaluated: Previous Day ONLY	Patients tested & sent home for self-quarantine: Previous Day ONLY	Ventilators TOTAL: Current Date	Ventilators in Use: Current Date	Negative Pressure Rooms TOTAL: Current Date	Negative Pressure Rooms in Use: Current Date
7	4	1	3	6	0	5	0

Latest Alabama COVID-19 Numbers:

http://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/infectiousdiseases/2019-coronavirus.html

Please refer all patients with mild to moderate symptoms to outpatient COVID testing location at 1101 Hwy 71 (the old North West Shoals Campus).

- o At this time they will need an order to "test for COVID".
- o The Alabama Dept of Public Health will notify you.

If your patient exhibits symptoms you feel may warrant admission to hospital, then direct patient to Helen Keller ER for further evaluation

- Please call ahead to give patient information to the emergency department.

Please do not send stable patients to the emergency department for routine COVID screening.

Please only give orders for COVID screening to patients exhibiting symptoms: fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat (see CDC guidelines)

Send your email contacts and /or phone number for texts to Helen Keller Hospital phone number, to receive daily updates as well.

Helen Keller Hospital has a dedicated COVID unit for patients with severe symptoms of COVID-19 and or patients under suspicion with severe symptoms.

Helen Keller Hospital has been at work since January developing protocols for effective management of infected patients as well as non-infected to prevent spread of the virus within the hospital.

Helen Keller Hospital has exercised resource management in anticipation of the upcoming surge in coronavirus patients.

Helen Keller Hospital and the medical staff are ready to receive patients with severe symptoms relating to COVID-19. Please keep in mind that 80% of patients infected will not require further treatment other than home quarantine for 14 days. If you want to send a patient to Keller please call ahead.

Remind patients that social distancing (6 foot distance), hand washing with soap and water for 20 seconds, cover cough, limiting congregations to < 10 people will diminish the spread of this virus.

Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH)

Alabama Emergency Response Technology (ALERT)

Health Alert Network (HAN)

March 23, 2020

SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Testing Criteria Revised

URGENT UPDATE: Changes to Testing Criteria to Focus Testing on Patients Most at Risk

On March 13, 2020, testing criteria for COVID-19 was revised to allow for testing simply based on a physician order. Since then, the recommendation at the federal level has been updated. The Alabama Department of Public Health's (ADPH) criteria is being revised to reflect the recommendation to focus on those with symptoms who are most at risk: those hospitalized, health care workers, persons in long-term care facilities, those ≥65 years old, and persons who have co-morbidities, and the immunocompromised.

Persons with no symptoms should not be tested. Testing is also not recommended for persons with mild symptoms. Please direct patients to stay home, practice home care, and call if symptoms worsen. All persons are asked to practice social distancing and to limit social interactions.

All providers requesting COVID-19 testing must complete the online Novel Coronavirus PUI form found on the ADPH Coronavirus for Healthcare Providers webpage at https://epiweb.adph.state.al.us/redcap/surveys/?s=TATDDJ8Y88. Providers should select the category of the laboratory where the specimen will be sent for testing: Bureau of Clinical Laboratories (BCL), commercial, or clinical laboratory on the form. An email confirming successful submission of the form will be sent. If BCL is selected, the email will include confirmation or declination of approval for testing. Once approved, the email includes a link to the BCL requisition form which must accompany the specimen. Follow specimen collection and shipping instructions carefully http://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/infectiousdiseases/assets/cov-bcl-testing.pdf.

The Bureau of Clinical Laboratories (BCL) provides free access to the BCL Web Portal. The BCL Web Portal is an electronic system for ordering and receiving laboratory test results. BCL recommends all providers use its Web Portal to assist submitting all test requisitions and for receiving all test results in a timely manner. To register for a Web Portal account, using your work email address, please email the following information to limssupport@adph.state.al.us:

- Facility name
- Facility address
- Facility phone number
- Point of contact

Tests to be performed by the BCL must meet the following criteria:

- The patient is **symptomatic** with at minimum (measured or subjective **fever** OR **cough** OR **shortness of breath**, <u>**and**</u>

- The patient is **hospitalized**, or

- The patient is **immunocompromised** or has **co-morbidities**, or

- The patient **age 65** years or older, or

- The patient is a **healthcare worker**, or

- The patient is associated with **a long-term healthcare facility**

Please visit *http://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/infectiousdiseases/cov-healthcare.html* for the most current information on COVID-19 reporting and testing.