

COVID-19 Update

For more information, visit the Hub @ internal.bmc.org



Dear Colleagues,

Please read below for today's updates.

A Note about Mask Usage and Conservation

No employee should have a mask on as they walk through the hospital **unless** they are caring for a patient on precautions in that patient's room, **or** are transporting a patient on precautions. We need everyone's help to conserve our supplies.

Updated Visitor Policy and Hospital Access Changes for Patients, Visitors, and Staff

An [earlier update](#) outlined our updated visitor policy (one visitor per patient at a time, no visitors under 18, no PACU visitors) as well as our plan to limit access points to the hospital.

NEW: Guidance for Care and Placement of Patients with Viral Respiratory Illnesses

In light of new [guidance](#) from the CDC, effective immediately BMC has updated its own infection control recommendations surrounding the care of patients with COVID-19. These new guidelines are designed to protect the safety of our employees, while ensuring we are able to continue to provide excellent care to our patients during an ongoing epidemic. It will also ensure staff are protected from unsuspected initial presentations of COVID-19 patients. They are consistent with what other academic medical centers have adopted.

Below is a summary of the changes. More detailed procedures will be shared as they are developed.

1) All patients with symptoms consistent with any viral respiratory illnesses (including suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases)

- In clinics, emergency room, and acute care evaluations: Use personal protective equipment for Droplet precautions (face mask) + Contact (yellow gowns and gloves) + eye protection (face shield or goggles).
- If collecting nasopharyngeal or oropharyngeal samples (for COVID-19 or any other testing), place in single room (does not have to be airborne isolation) with door closed and use personal protective equipment for Airborne (N95 or equivalent) + Contact (yellow gowns and gloves) + eye protection (face shield or goggles).

2) **Critically ill patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 or in those requiring aerosol generating procedures, should be placed in negative pressure airborne isolation room (if available)**

- Personal Protective Equipment: Airborne (N95 or equivalent) + Contact (yellow gowns and gloves) + eye protection (face shield or goggles).

NEW: Tools and Tip Sheets for Working Remotely

ITS has put together two documents to assist employees in working remotely from their personal or BMC-issued computer.

- Click below or visit the Hub. This information will be posted on bmc.org as well for off-campus access.
 - [Phone and Collaboration Tools](#)
 - [Computer Use](#)

NEW: Specimen Testing for COVID-19

- A [specimen submission form](#) for COVID-19 testing is now available on the Emergency Management page of the Hub. This form is required for all testing of suspected COVID-19 cases by the Department of Public Health.

REMINDER: Staff Wellness Support Services

- BMC has a wide range of programs and services available to support you and your family with physical and mental wellbeing.
- Please visit [the Hub](#) for a list of these programs, including the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), Doctor on Demand app, and childcare assistance.
- The Working Well Clinic has established a new email address (Covid19WWC@bmc.org).
 - Staff should use this email address to report symptoms of and possible exposure to COVID-19, so the Working Well Clinic can assess your risk and recommend next steps.
 - Email Covid19WWC@bmc.org for questions related to your health and safety such as travel, exposure, and staying home/self-isolation or when to return to work.