

## Bulletin

# COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Update

For more information, visit the Hub @ [internal.bmc.org](https://internal.bmc.org)



In order to keep you updated on information related to COVID-19, we will be sending this bulletin as needed. Please be sure to review and share with staff who do not have regular access to email. You should also visit [the Hub](#) for the most up-to-date information.

- As of March 5, 2020 BMC has instituted [work-related travel](#) restrictions for BMC staff and students managed by BMC staff, and a policy for [personal travel](#) to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) restricted travel countries list.
- BMC has activated our Hospital Incident Command System to centralize our preparedness activities, and to streamline coordinated efforts across the hospital and with our partners at the local, state, and federal levels.
- The most up-to-date screening algorithms – which include an expanded list of countries – are available in the [Emergency Management section of the Hub](#).
  - [General screening](#)
  - [Ambulatory clinics](#)
  - [Phone questionnaire](#)
- Consistent with other hospitals and academic medical centers in Boston we are suspending routine **fit-testing** effective immediately. Please be assured that the safety of our employees is our priority. Fit-testing and training will be limited to those who will care for patients under airborne infection isolation, including those treating potential COVID-19 patients.
- Current guidelines from the CDC indicate that staff who are more than six feet away from patients do not require N95 respirators or other PPE. If you are not a part of the direct care team, please make every effort to stay at least six feet away from patients with suspected COVID-19.
- Instructions for [donning/doffing PPE](#), including an [instructional video](#), are available on the Hub.
- We want to remind everyone to adhere to news media and social media policies. You are never permitted to share protected health information of patients or provide medical advice and this includes specifics related to COVID-19. If a news reporter contacts you, direct all inquiries to [communications@bmc.org](mailto:communications@bmc.org) or page communications at pager ID 1068.

- We should remind patients that there are simple everyday preventive actions outlined by the CDC that can help prevent the spread of viruses like COVID-19 and the flu:
  - Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
  - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
  - Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
  - Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol if soap and water are not available.
  - Avoid shaking hands, even in a business setting.