

Thank you all for your continued commitment to Easton Hospital and your communities during these unprecedented times! We remain proud to be here for you and your patients!

Couple updates for you about our operations as we continue responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic:

1. We remain on divert for STEMI and Obstetric related emergencies, we will continue to call pre-hospital Stroke Alerts as requested by EMS. Excluding need for intubation, there are no expected delays related to COVID-19 that may result in not being able to take a patient directly to CT
2. Easton Hospital has adopted a **Universal Masking** approach to our staff, patients and visitors. We ask that all patients brought in by EMS wear a surgical mask, regardless of complaint. All visitors should be directed to the ED Waiting Room until allowed in by staff, the only exclusion to this rule is one guardian per minor patient. Our ED staff will happily exchange a new surgical mask for any patient brought in with a surgical mask on. If a crew is transporting a patient into or out of our hospital and does not have a surgical mask, one can be obtained via the Emergency Department Unit Clerk.
3. Our ED Staff will also happily exchange a new N95 mask with a broken, damaged or otherwise unusable N95 worn by an EMS provider.
4. Due to the volume of suspicion and the extensive nature of the symptoms of COVID-19, patients will no longer need to enter via the Decon Entrance unless they physically require decontamination of a Hazardous Material. Please make every attempt to notify our ER of incoming patients! We are happy to continue to offer Twiage, Radio and Phone options for pre-hospital notification.
5. All nebulized medications must be discontinued in the Emergency Department until the patient is moved into an appropriate room for the safety of staff and patients.
6. Decontamination of units and equipment: We are proud to work with our providers to maintain fast and clean turn-around times. With the assistance of the Eastern PA EMS Council, we are supplying a decontamination cart in the EMS entrance for use by all providers. There will be a bucket on the cart with cleaning product and washcloths of OxyCide and Spray Pumps of a Bleach mixture. The products are not meant for contact with clothing and are meant to be used at the provider's own risk (the bleach will stain!). If you have other questions about the products available for cleaning, please contact me!

Thank you for all you do for our community! The Front Line may have become bigger with our healthcare providers, but we have amazing role models from our EMS partners.

Please stay safe and healthy!

Steph

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