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Bonner General Health  
Public Information  
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## **PRESS RELEASE 3/21/2020**

As the situation regarding the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to evolve, so does Bonner General Health's response. In addition to measures we have taken including "soft" visitor restrictions, high-alert procedures in the Emergency Department, and adhering diligently to Panhandle Health District and Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) guidelines, Bonner General Health is taking more precautionary steps to help protect our staff, patients, and community.

Effective, 7 a.m. Saturday, March 21, 2020, we will be limiting entry points to the hospital and screening everyone – employees, providers, patients, and the limited permissible visitors allowed who enter the building. The following provides additional detail about these safety procedures:

**Limited Entry Point:** Everyone entering the hospital should come through the hospital main entrance on 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. by the Gift Shop. **All other entry points will be closed.**

**No visitors will be allowed inside the hospital until further notice.**

**Exceptions include:**

**Obstetric patients may have one support person**

**Pediatric patients may have parents/guardians (limit two).**

**Screening Process**

**Approved visitors MUST MEET ALL 5 OF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:**

- ✓ Free of travel in the last 14 days
- ✓ Be at least 18 years of age
- ✓ Free of fever for 72-hours (by report or measured if available)
- ✓ Free of an acute severe cough
- ✓ Free of shortness of breath

Visitors must follow staff instructions regarding hand washing and the use of equipment.



We do not want to alarm anyone, but we do want our community to know, we are prepared, responding appropriately, and are committed to protecting the well-being of our staff, patients, visitors, and our community.

These increased safety measures do NOT mean you cannot access the hospital. Please seek medical care as needed. If you have concerns or are experiencing symptoms of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), call your primary care provider before going to their office.

**Symptoms:**

Fever (higher than 100.4 degrees F)

Respiratory illness (a new cough, new shortness of breath, and difficulty breathing)

A direct contact with a confirmed COVID-19 person

As we continue to provide care to all other emergency patients we need anyone coming to the Emergency Department with COVID-19 symptoms to follow the below guidelines.

**Call ahead of time to the Emergency Department at 208-265-1020.**

When you arrive at the Emergency Department, **please stay in your car**, and call **208-265-1020**, a staff member will come to you.

The Bonner General Health team values the trust our community places in us, and we appreciate your understanding as we adjust our visitation procedures during this time.

Bonner General Health continues to work diligently with our local agencies and regional partners to prepare for coronavirus and screen for any potential cases. We all must do our part to keep ourselves, family, and community members' safe. If you have any questions or think you may have symptoms, call the Panhandle Health District Hotline at 1-877-415-5225.