



In response to the growing number of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) cases in the United States, Franciscan Health physicians, nurses and other clinicians have taken proactive measures to accommodate expected rapid growth of patients suspected of having contracted the virus. We are doing daily assessments of our facilities, equipment and staffing to determine the most effective deployment of our resources to help fight this pandemic.

While the criteria for COVID-19 testing is changing on an almost daily basis, stringent measures are in place to monitor and screen patients who might have been exposed to the virus or are exhibiting symptoms. Our supply of available tests determines the number we can administer each day, prioritizing nursing homes, emergency support personnel, medical professionals and patients based on greatest need.

Infection Control teams at Franciscan Health hospitals have implemented procedures with staff and have the necessary equipment to care for any patient with this illness or any other flu strains. This includes having protective barriers and isolation areas to protect staff and others from airborne exposure to COVID-19. Further, our clinicians train year-round to respond to any potential outbreaks of infectious diseases.

Meanwhile, Franciscan Health facilities are taking measures to conserve and source personal protective equipment such as masks, gowns and gloves. Our supply chain department is monitoring global product manufacturing and supply distribution channels and will take action where and when needed to maintain adequate supplies.

As COVID-19 is an evolving situation, Franciscan Health will continue to work with local and state public health agencies should additional measures need to be taken. Patient safety is always paramount in the protection of our patients, visitors and staff.

For the latest information visit <https://www.franciscanhealth.org/covid-19>.