

## **Fort Madison Community Hospital Provides Local Update to COVID-19**

The leadership team at Fort Madison Community Hospital, in coordination with Great River Health System, has been working diligently to put together a comprehensive plan of attack to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

FMCH will implement the following changes throughout the organization, effective Wednesday, March 18, 2020.

### **Visiting restrictions**

Visiting restrictions will begin tomorrow, Wednesday, March 18, 2020 at 6:00 a.m. They are as follows:

- Medical/Surgical Unit – limited to **2** identified visitors for the duration of the patient's stay. These identified visitors will be screened for COVID-19 each time they visit. Exceptions will be made in special cases.
- Emergency Department – only **1** support person can accompany the patient into the exam room for adult patients. Pediatric patients may have both parents or 2 guardians accompany them into the exam room. These identified support people/guardians will be screened for COVID-19 prior to accompanying the patient into the exam room.
- Birthplace – only **1** identified support/spouse/coach will be allowed in the room with the patient. This identified person will remain the same for the duration of the patient's stay.

### **Facility Entrances**

We are limiting the access points into the facility. This initiative will help minimize the number of people on the FMCH campus and aid in the screening process for COVID-19. We will screen all people entering the facility for COVID-19; they will then be given a sticker to indicate clearance.

The following entrances will remain open during the hours listed:

- Main Hospital Entrance – 6:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m.; 7 days
- Main Clinic Entrance – 6:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., M-F only
- Emergency Department Patient Entrance- 24 hour access/ 7 days
- MyCare Walk-in Clinic/Pediatric Entrance – 7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.; M-F and 7:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Saturday
- Business Center Entrance – 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; M-F
- Outpatient Rehabilitation Services/Orthopedic Entrance- 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; M-F

### **FMCH Walking Track**

The FMCH Indoor Walking Track, located in the Outpatient Rehabilitation Services Center, will close to public use until further notice.

### **FMCH Clinic Visits**

The FMCH Clinic staff will work to limit the number of patients on campus. They will assess the reason for the visit and determine if the visit is medically necessary for all currently scheduled patients and those calling in to schedule a new appointment. All patients will be contacted by FMCH staff about the status of their scheduled appointment.

All wellness visits will be re-scheduled when appropriate. Medications will continue to be managed by the providers.

The FMCH Pediatric Clinic will continue to see well-child and sick visits at this time. They will schedule the appointments during different time slots to separate the patients.

### **Elective Surgical Procedure**

Based on the U.S. Surgeon General's March 14 directive, FMCH Surgical Services made the decision to postpone any elective surgical procedures. Our staff will contact patients who are currently scheduled for an elective procedure. This decision will be re-evaluated at the end of April.

### **Events**

All public events offered by Fort Madison Community Hospital, through April 30, have been cancelled. This includes the following events:

- Women's Health Conference
- Community Health Education Series
- Joint Camp
- Weekly Baby Weigh-In & Pre-natal classes
- Grief Support Group and Bereavement Session

### **Volunteers**

- We will not have volunteers present on campus in an effort to protect their health.
- The Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) office hours will be suspended at this time.
- We will also close the FMCH Auxiliary Gift Shop until further notice.

### **Cafeteria**

The proclamation delivered by Governor Reynolds on March 17, 2020, recommends the closing of all restaurants to the general public. We will follow that recommendation and close our cafeteria to all non-employees.

### **What can you do?**

FMCH is also asking for the community's help during this time.

- The most accurate and up-to-date information can be found on the Iowa Department of Public Health, or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention websites. A link can be found on the FMCH home page ([www.fmchosp.com](http://www.fmchosp.com))
- Please call the healthcare facility in advance of coming to the facility if you are feeling ill. FMCH has trained professionals who will do a quick screening and help direct your care.
- The restrictions implemented at FMCH, in the community and at the state and federal level are there to protect you, please adhere to those recommendations.
- Wash your hands, stay home if you are sick, cover your cough and sneezes, keep your hands away from your face and stay away from large gatherings of people.