

Summary of Covid-19 update video 3/30/20

Dr. Sowmya Kurtakoti

Hope everyone is doing okay and feeling okay during these unprecedented times. I want to thank each one of you for strictly following through with the preventive measures in place to keep this community safe. Here's the brief summary of my talk:

1. Statistics:

- a. 3,128 positive cases, total of 69 deaths in CT. 2 deaths in Hartford
- b. Hartford County – 393 positive cases, 67 hospitalizations, 11 cases in Bloomfield. 1 positive at Caleb
- c. Close to 16,000 test performed in CT

2. Symptoms of COVID-19:

- a. Fever 100.4 or higher
- b. New cough
- c. New difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- d. Nausea, vomiting, loose stools lasting for 24 hrs. or more

3. Whom to call:

a. Covid-symptoms:

- i. You can call the Hartford HealthCare Covid-19 Hotline at 823-621-0600. You will speak to a nurse or MA who will schedule you with a physician for a Telehealth visit to determine if you need testing.
- ii. You can call the Assisted Living nurse at 5152, who can help you call the Hotline.

- iii. You can call your PCP.

b. Non-Covid Symptoms:

- i. Call your PCP.
- ii. Call the Assisted living nurse at 5152 who can assess and report to the clinic.

- iii. Call the clinic – you can be scheduled for a Telehealth visit or an in-person visit depending on the need.

4. Testing:

- a. ___ Independent/Assisted Living residents:
 - i. ___ Will be arranged for Drive-through testing through the HHC Hotline
- b. ___ Caleb patients:
 - i. Testing Collected at Caleb and sent to Quest or Department of Public Health (DPH).
- c. ___ Results can take 3-7 days to be back.

5. Precautions/Preventive measures:

- a. Hand washing with soap and water for 20 seconds or use of Hand sanitizer especially if you have gone for a walk or gone through common spaces.
- b. If walking in the common spaces such as stairways, hallways, elevators – use scarf, bandana or a mask (if you have one) as also recommended by Dr. Rothfield as the virus droplets can stay in air for a few hours.
- c. Disposable food containers need to be disposed of in a wastebasket placed outside on your Balcony.
- d. Packages are aired for 24 hrs. before being delivered; these packages can also be disposed of in a wastebasket on your balcony.
- e. Wipe Countertops every time you place something from outside on it, and at minimum, at least twice a day.
- f. If your hands are getting cracked, use petroleum jelly or Vaseline in a jar 2-3 times a day.

6. Preventive measures Duncaster has taken so far:

- a. Restricted visitors from outside.
- b. All deliveries are made to the loading docks at both buildings and are held in quarantine for 24 hrs. before delivering to residents.

- c.** Checking temperatures and symptoms on all staff and personnel coming in.
- d.** Mandatory use of masks for all staff members and employees at Caleb.
- e.** Clinic has been prescreening all patients by phone so that no sick patients are seen in the clinic.
- f.** Clinic will be starting Telehealth and all community patients will be cared for via Telehealth and will not be seen in the clinic.
- g.** Only Duncaster residents that need to be seen will be seen; the rest can be cared for via Telehealth as well.

7. Caleb Hitchcock Health Center:

- a.** 1 positive case in a LTC resident.
- b.** It is likely that this patient acquired the virus when the patient was in the hospital for a different issue as symptoms started about 10 days after that hospitalization.
- c.** No other staff was sick or tested positive at the time patient started to have symptoms.
- d.** We had already implemented staff screening (temperature and symptoms) as well as use of mask by all staff and employees by then. These measures helped lessen the exposure to our staff.
- e.** Even prior to being affected by COVID-19, patient's family had decided that they would keep the patient comfortable with no aggressive measures such as intubation or resuscitation. Duncaster and the physicians were respectful to those wishes and decided to keep patient at Caleb and manage here.
- f.** Given that Caleb has private rooms, it is easy to isolate the patients.
- g.** We do have adequate staff and PPE and at this time so no one is overburdened.
- h.** Lot of support and education is being provided to the staff at Caleb. Physicians – Dr. Becherl, Dr. Collins and I-- are leading this effort along with Ami Desai and Kelly Papa.
- i.** We have an excellent, competent team at Caleb.

- j.** We are not a hospital and hence we don't and will not have ventilators.
- k.** Currently Dr. Becherl is the only physician who is at both buildings; I am there some times during the week.

If anyone has any questions or concerns, you can reach me directly at 860-614-1726 or by email Sowmya.kurtakoti@hhchealth.org

Thanks,
Sowmya Kurtakoti, Medical Director Duncaster.