

Leading the Way: Safely Bringing Your Patients Back to Beaumont

Saturday, May 2

Question and Answer Session: Highlights

What is the plan for re-opening services at Beaumont, Wayne?

Beaumont, Wayne reopened on Tuesday, May 5 for both COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 patients. The campus is reopening in phases as the health system brings staff back. In Phase I, the Wayne EC (non-trauma services), obstetrical services and observation/inpatient medical surgical beds and support services (pharmacy, laboratory, food and environmental) are open. In addition, some outpatient surgical and diagnostic services, including the infusion center, are being offered, in compliance with Executive Orders, to meet the time sensitive needs of patients.

How have surgical cases been prioritized at sites and what has the process been for notifying surgeons and patients?

On Wednesday, April 22, a statement released by the Michigan Hospital Association provided further guidance into Governor Whitmer's Executive Order 2020-17 regarding essential procedures. The MHA heard from several sources that patients are delaying the use of vital medical services. In response, the executive office of the governor provided this statement to the MHA to share with health systems statewide: *"Governor Whitmer's top priority is the health and safety of Michiganders. Under the governor's order, licensed medical providers have the responsibility to use their best clinical judgment to determine whether procedures are necessary to preserve the health and safety of their patients, such that the procedures should not be postponed."*

The Essential Surgery/Procedure Task Force, launched in mid-March, developed a process that assigns a designated site leader responsible for surgical case review. The designated site leader, in accordance with the site leadership team, is responsible to monitor each site's overall capacity, demand and resources. Each surgical local leadership is contacting surgeons, and in some cases, patients directly to schedule time-sensitive procedures.

Are we testing all patients that come in for procedures and surgeries?

As a follow up to the Webex, we wanted to let you know that we have heard your concerns and will be providing additional resources to address this issue. Consistent with policies issued through the governor's office and the Michigan Health Association, we will continue to allow physician discretion for the clinical decision-making process regarding procedures and testing. We will facilitate this process going forward to ensure options are available for COVID-19 testing your patients before surgery.

Our health system is actively acquiring additional lab platforms to ensure we have adequate testing capacity. At the physician's discretion, patients can be tested at least two days prior to surgery. We plan to use a test with a rapid turnaround time to ensure results as clinically relevant as possible. Consistent with prior Beaumont screening guidelines, if the patient's test is positive, the surgery should be postponed.

How are prior COVID-19 floors decontaminated prior to allowing "regular" patients on these floors?

Environmental Services (EVS) team members are using standard cleaning chemicals. These chemicals are known to be effective against COVID-19. EVS will perform the cleaning after the patient has left the room.

For a patient room, the room will be left vacant to allow clearance of airborne contaminants. Based on air exchange data from Facilities, 60 minutes is the ideal time period. If the patient had a mask on the entire time they were in the space (providing source containment), the one-hour

period is not required. Using our standard protocols, we are ensuring that our facilities are properly disinfected to take care of non-COVID-19 patients.

What is the process for serological testing for our employees?

[This page](#) provides information regarding the Beaumont Health Serology Study.

What protocols would be followed in the event of a second (or third) surge?

System leaders in Beaumont’s Emergency Operations Center are currently identifying system best practices, current gaps and lessons learned since the COVID-19 crisis began in Southeast Michigan in early March. This exercise will allow our system to identify the trigger metrics that will indicate a spike in COVID-19 volumes and what operational items will need to be reinstated to prepare the organization for a potential surge (i.e. opening designated COVID-19 units). Additionally, support services, such as supply chain, are working to increase supplies on hand to prepare for a potential future surge.

How are we managing visitors at this point?

The Beaumont COVID-19 [Visitation Safety Restrictions](#) are continuously reviewed and updated.

Are we scheduling cases that may have to stay for 2-3 days postop?

Yes, sites are monitoring their capacity to determine if cases with expected postoperative inpatient stays can be scheduled. Hospitals have designated non-COVID units for patients who need to stay in the hospital postoperatively.

Given limited availability, what resources can Beaumont provide for physician offices?

To support short-term and potentially longer-term medical supply shortages in our independent physician offices, Beaumont Care Partners has entered into an agreement with Expansion/Purchase Clinic to create the BCPTrust program. This program is provided to BCP physician offices at no cost and gives them access to medical and office supplies at greatly reduced prices. [Access the Purchase Clinic marketplace here](#) to register. This link is also available on the BCP website main page and on the Benefits tab – click the “BCPTrust” link on the left side of the page. Once registered, purchasing support is available online or by phone – 877-659-2159 – mention Beaumont Care Partners for escalated support.

In addition to the BCPTrust marketplace, other opportunities exist to purchase certain PPE directly from Beaumont Health through BCP. Please contact BCP’s Executive Director [Ryan Catignani](#) for a product list, pricing and to place an order.

What PPE should be used in outpatient settings?

The Beaumont Health Infection Prevention team has developed a [comprehensive overview](#) of necessary PPE, including a universal masking protocol for all patients and employees.

A policy has also been developed to inform [infection prevention guidance at ambulatory sites](#).

What is the expected timeline for opening therapy and other outpatient services?

Therapy and other outpatient services are being reassessed on an ongoing basis, and we expect to see these services open at limited locations over the next few weeks. Please watch for an update as infection prevention guidelines are implemented.

What is Beaumont’s mental health strategy in light of the pandemic? Is Beaumont considering expanding capacity to serve the mental health needs of our patients and staff?

Beaumont Health made a commitment in late 2018 to address the growing mental health need in Southeast Michigan when the construction of a ninth hospital, a dedicated specialty hospital offering the full continuum of mental health care, was announced. Plans are still on track for the

Dearborn hospital to be completed at some point in 2021. Regarding the mental health of current staff, it's encouraged that employees utilize the emotional well-being debriefings that are being offered to receive support from trained facilitators and peers.