

NOTE: I am sharing this update with the only purpose to keep NUHW members informed of all communications released by Kindred Westminster. Contact your supervisor or nursing director if you have any concern or questions about this update. Contact Sheila Frias at (714) 330-3917 if you want to escalate your question or concern. If you still need further assistance contact your shop steward or Union organizer.

COVID-19 Update – Kindred Hospital Westminster
4/16/2020

Prevention Strategies

1. Every patient is carefully screened prior to admission. This includes a clinical record review by multiple people for any symptoms associated with COVID. We are not admitting active COVID or suspected COVID patients.
2. Temperature screening continues at the front. When you sign that paper, you are stating that you are not sick and do not have any fever/respiratory symptoms. Employees are reminded that they should not come to work if they are sick. Any fever or respiratory symptoms should be reported to your supervisor and Employee Health Nurse. Employees will not be allowed to work until they have been symptom and fever free (without any fever reducing medication) for at least 72 hours and cleared by Employee Health.
3. Universal masking is mandatory. All staff should be wearing masks while in the hospital, unless on a break or eating. Any noncompliance should be reported to your supervisor.
4. Social distancing should be practiced while at work. Guidelines specific to social distancing have been posted. Additional tables for breaks and eating have been placed outside to assist staff in social distancing efforts.
5. Visitation is only being allowed in end of life situations and must be approved by Administration. No outside items (food, belongings, etc.) are being allowed into the building for the patients.

PPE

1. We have adequate supplies of PPE but have taken needed steps to maintain those supplies including the changes such as reuse of patient gowns, discontinuation of universal isolation, and collection of masks for employees in the event that we need to disinfect and reuse masks in the future.
2. RT staff are being asked to use N95 masks for intubation on every patient. This is not specific to COVID suspected patients, but for all patients. The RT intubating a patient is the only individual that needs an N95 mask because they are the only individual within close enough proximity to be at risk.
3. Any staff providing care for a suspected COVID patient will be provided with appropriate PPE including an N95 mask. Swabbing for COVID will be coordinated by Administrative staff if ordered by a physician. Any orders should be communicated to the House Supervisor immediately so we can implement proper precautions.

Additional Information

The south 3E hallway is not being prepared for opening to be a COVID unit. It is being separated and cleaned because our C.Auris census has dropped significantly and we need to have additional beds available for regular patient admissions. This hallway will be treated as a separate unit from the north

hallway and will have all needed equipment and staff once opened. We anticipate this unit will be available for use, if needed, on 4/20/20.