



Monday, March 23, 2020

What we're doing to plan and prepare for COVID-19

How are our ministries preparing for COVID-19 patients?

Our leaders are convening regularly to assess, reevaluate, and update our emergency preparedness plans, and we have confidence that they will make the right decisions to ensure your safety. We will continue to follow CDC interim guidelines and partner with local, state and federal government authorities.

How can I lower the risk of catching a respiratory virus?

Here are a few things you can do to lower your risk of any viral respiratory illness such as the flu or COVID-19:

- Stay home when you are sick
- Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze
- Clean your hands regularly
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at home and work
- Drink plenty of fluids

How are we screening for the virus?

We'll continue screening patients in our Emergency Rooms and other clinical points for risk factors for COVID-19 and in accordance with the CDC's travel guidance, but we do not plan to screen our Associates at this time. However, if an Associate or a member of his/her household has recently traveled to China, Iran, South Korea, Italy or any other area of widespread sustained transmission, the Associate should notify their supervisor and their ministry's occupational health

nurse. The Associate may be asked to take a leave of absence. For updated travel information, refer to the CDC link at the bottom.

Do we have enough personal protective equipment (PPE)?

We've reviewed our supplies and PPE and we have everything we need for screening travelers. We have as much PPE as we can possibly have on hand in the chance we encounter an affected patient, but we want to be sure to preserve these supplies. With that in mind, we will follow the CDC's guidance for extended use and limited reuse of N95 respirators. If you have questions about our N95 extended use guidelines or need refresher training on correct use of PPE, please discuss with your clinical manager and local Infection Prevention Professional.

Visit the CDC to learn more: [CDC.gov/Coronavirus/2019-NCOV/Index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/Coronavirus/2019-NCOV/Index.html)

You can also find additional messages from CHRISTUS Health leaders on Clinical Excellence's Intranet page: [OneChristus.eChristus.net/System/CE](https://www.onechristus.net/System/CE)