



May 11, 2020

A letter to our valued community members,

Harbor Beach Community Hospital has had a COVID19 Outbreak as identified by the Huron County Health Department. An outbreak, is considered to be two or more individuals in the same workplace being diagnosed as COVID19 positive.

Current Situation

Hospitals are where sick people go to seek care, and therefore seeing COVID19 positive patients is inevitable. Hospitals across the world have experienced or are currently experiencing COVID19 outbreaks among staff who were exposed to COVID19 positive patients. Research from the CDC shows that approximately 3-11% of all healthcare professionals have been or are currently diagnosed as COVID19 positive. The number of staff infected with COVID19 at Harbor Beach Community Hospital falls well within that range.

Action Steps with Patients

Enhanced screening procedures have been put in place for all patients. Patients entering our facility have their temperature taken and are screened for symptoms such as cough and shortness of breath. Patient's name and contact information is also recorded on their health screening in the event they need to be contacted for Coronavirus tracing. The hospital has limited which doors patients are able to use to enter our facility, to ensure screening takes places for all patients. We have asked that patients come alone if they are able. If patients are unable to come alone, they may be accompanied by one healthy adult only. No visitors are allowed within our facility at this time. These measures are similar to what other healthcare facilities around the country have put in place. Our facility has followed, and continues to follow the recommendations from the Huron County Health Department and the CDC to keep patients safe.

Action Steps with Staff

Staff's temperatures are taken and recorded when staff arrive at work, and every eight hours thereafter for those who work longer shifts. We've also asked staff to take their temperature twice daily at home and to report any signs of a fever or respiratory symptoms to their supervisor and the Infection Control Nurse immediately. Increased cleaning schedules have been implemented and housekeeping is cleaning commonly touched services as often as possible. We have asked employees to disinfect their work spaces at the beginning and end of each shift. Non-patient care staff who had been wearing fabric facemasks have transitioned to hospital grade facemasks. Staff are practicing social distancing as much as possible and employees who requested and are able to work from home

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www.hbch.org

Lakeview Extended Care and Rehab
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Harbor Beach, MI 48441
(989) 479-3201
Fax (989) 479-5010

Harbor Beach Medical Clinic
8970 Sand Beach Road
Harbor Beach, MI 48441
(989) 479-3291
Fax (989) 479-3365

Port Hope Medical Clinic
4255 N. Lakeshore Road
Port Hope, MI 48468
(989) 428-1000
Fax (989) 479-1001

Physical Therapy
Occupational Therapy
210 South First Street
Harbor Beach, MI 48441
(989) 479-3201 ext. 157
Fax (989) 479-5000

Senior Life Solutions
204 South Huron Avenue
Harbor Beach, MI 48441
(989) 479-0200
Fax (989) 479-0203

Specialty Clinic
234 South First Street
Harbor Beach, MI 48441
(989) 479-3201 ext. 253
Fax (989) 479-5014

Walk In Clinic
210 South First Street
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(989) 479-3201
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have been supplied with the necessary tools to do so. We have also closed our Administration and Finance Office to the public and encourage patients to pay their bills by mail, phone, or online at our website in lieu of coming into the facility. The hospital is an essential workplace which needs to function around the clock during this pandemic. These measures are similar to what other healthcare facilities around the country have put in place. Our facility has followed, and continues to follow the recommendations from the Huron County Health Department and the CDC to keep staff safe.

Long Term Care

There are currently no cases affiliated with our Long Term Care unit, which is located within the hospital. Long Term Care staff are going above and beyond to keep residents safe, and have picked up additional duties related to dietary and housekeeping to reduce the amount of exposure residents are facing. Visitors are not currently allowed, but residents are able to have virtual visits with their loved ones at any time. Our residents in long term care are part of the Harbor Beach Community Hospital family, and as always, we are doing everything we can to give them the amenities of home while keeping them safe and healthy.

Harbor Beach and Port Hope Medical Clinics

There are currently no cases affiliated with our medical clinic staff. Patients are encouraged however to take advantage of our telemedicine services so that they may receive care from the safety of their own home. Visits can be conducted over the phone or through video chat with their primary care provider or mental health provider of choice. Patients just need a phone, tablet, or computer to access telehealth services.

How You Can Help

Please continue to wear facemasks while in public and social distance as much as possible to slow the community spread of the virus. If you are experiencing symptoms of the Coronavirus and would like to be tested please call the Harbor Beach Medical Clinic, Port Hope Medical Clinic, or the hospital prior to arriving. We cannot stress enough that our facility is still a safe place to seek care. Patients should still always go to their nearest facility and seek care immediately if they are having a medical emergency.

Harbor Beach Community Hospital has provided healthcare services to our community for 100 years. We are proud of the people who work at our facility and of the level of care we provide. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your support and generosity during this difficult time. We are honored to be a community owned hospital and we will get through this as exactly that, a community.

Sincerely,
Paul Clabuesch
President/CEO

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