



# EISENHOWER HEALTH

April 7, 2020

We hope you are doing well, especially after what you have endured! Please, keep healing, you are an inspiration for all of us at Eisenhower.

The need to stay away from the public has been extended well beyond what any of us anticipated – because it works! The virus lies silent for a period within our communities but now is out. Keep up with your routine and we will avoid the worst of what you see in the news.

Here are the numbers to put this into perspective, comparing our letter of last week to this week's numbers:

	Letter of March 30 <sup>th</sup>	Today, April 6 <sup>th</sup>	Difference
Total Tested	509	826	+ 317
Total Positive	42 (16 inpatient)	111 (17 inpatient)	+ 69 (1 inpatient)
Total Negative	344	678	+ 334
Total Pending	143 (28% of total)	55 (6.7% of total)	- 88
Calls to Eisenhower	17,020	20,551	+ 3,531

The critical item to see is the low number of patients in the hospital – only a total of 17. Translated: of the 111 positives, the balance are quarantining because they don't have life-threatening symptoms.

The second number to note is the percentage of positives. This has increased as a percent of the total (from 8.3% of the total tested to 13.4%). This may be a result of our community's new level of awareness of symptoms and our increased capacity to test.

The final item: when the lab performing all testing became backlogged, Eisenhower began using alternatives, including sending tests overnight to Mayo Clinic Laboratories. Getting the “pending” results down from 28% to 6.7% has been a God-send for our patients, their families and our entire community. It allows all of us to “trace” back to the 14 days we last interacted with the patient, and to quarantine appropriately.

What do I do if my neighbor or family member tells me they tested positive?

First, tell your spouse and other family, and if you are not sick, then take heart.

Second, think back to when you last interacted with the person. If it was more than 14 days ago, you should be in the clear. If it was more recent, say 10 days ago, ask yourself: How close were we? Did I clean my hands after we may have touched the same things? Did I touch my face? If yes, or you don't remember, you should be vigilant about staying away from others for 4 more days, getting you to a total of 14 days since your exposure to the person who tested positive. This is the CDC standard, and how we, as a community, eliminate the virus from spreading.

As we come closer to Easter and Passover, please note, that in California as a whole, 18-49 year olds make up 50% of all positives to date. Be encouraged, we just cared for a 97 year old who had COVID-19 and she walked out of the hospital last week!

How is Eisenhower poised to handle a sudden "surge" of patients? First, we are a large hospital with 463 licensed beds. We have a large campus and can spread out if need be. We've prepared, by creating a walled off pathway for COVID-19 patients to go from the ER directly to one of two hospital isolation units, where we will continue to isolate and serve all our COVID-19 patients. If a patient becomes critical, we will transfer the person to one of our ICU isolation rooms. All patients who do not have COVID-19 are cared for in areas far removed from the isolation units.

With the conversion of our anesthesia equipment and other machines into ventilators, along with the purchase of 50 new ventilators (on the way) and the lease of additional ventilation machines, Eisenhower is positioned, at the height of a surge, to care for more than 130 critical patients simultaneously. That's a huge increase in critical care capacity in the past three weeks!

Our COVID-19 Response Fund ([eisenhowerhealth.org/covidfund](http://eisenhowerhealth.org/covidfund)) is doing well within the community to help underwrite the massive "surge" of needed Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Here are some notes from our Director of Materials Management, Joanne Singh:

"When we first heard about Coronavirus, the materials staff went into quick action and started sourcing PPE items from some of our smaller vendors and building up inventory on facemasks, sanitizer, wipes, gowns and gloves.

Our Graduate Medical Education Residents began a project to fabricate face shields using 3D printer technology. Soon after, the "Coachella Valley Mask Makers" and "CV Mask Project" set up by a group of donors, organized the efforts of over 1,000 volunteers to make disposable gowns and masks for Eisenhower with materials donated by Lowe's and Home Depot. Next, our Physicians and Nursing staff came up with creative ways to conserve PPE. Moving IV poles outside the rooms in ICU, so they don't have to gown/mask up if the IV Pump alarms. Thinking "outside the box," because Eisenhower can't keep up with the massive amount of single use disposable isolation gowns required on a daily basis, we moved to reusable fabric gowns that can be laundered and returned."

We have received hundreds of contacts/leads for PPE items, from staff, donors, board members and the community at large which has helped tremendously, and we thank you! There is price gouging in this current market and a supply/demand problem. For instance, our buyer of PPE,

the largest in America, previously sold hospital isolation gowns and N95 masks for 32¢ and 42¢ respectively. Today, these prices are between \$3.50 and \$6.50 per item!

Consequently, Eisenhower has set up a PPE donation hotline (760-837-8988) that is staffed by the Environmental Services department. Calls come in and couriers are sent to pick up items. We have had tremendous response from local businesses, schools, government agencies and the public. On a daily basis we are receiving hand sewn masks from all around the country, with notes of encouragement.

This was a long letter and one we hope is of value for you and your family. We believe we are in good shape as we pray you are.

Stay healthy and make this week count,



G. Aubrey Serfling  
President/CEO



Michael Landes  
President, Foundation

## MICHAEL LANDES

PRESIDENT  
EISENHOWER HEALTH FOUNDATION

Direct 760-773-4553 | Office 760-773-1888

E-Mail [mlandes@eisenhowerhealth.org](mailto:mlandes@eisenhowerhealth.org)

Website [EisenhowerHealth.org/giving](http://EisenhowerHealth.org/giving)

39000 Bob Hope Drive | Rancho Mirage, CA 92270