

2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Staff Talking Points

Q: Does Torrance Memorial have any cases of COVID-19?

A: At this time Torrance Memorial has no confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Q: Is Torrance Memorial prepared to care for patients with COVID-19?

A: Torrance Memorial is closely monitoring and responding to any new developments received from the CDC and state and local health authorities. Our physicians, nurses, infectious disease specialists, emergency room staff and administrators have developed a hospital-wide plan that will be enacted if patient(s) with symptoms present to the hospital.

Q: Is Torrance Memorial testing for COVID-19?

A: Currently, testing for COVID-19 is performed only through the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, with its authorization. Hospitals do not yet have testing capabilities.

Q: What is COVID-19?

A: The 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is a new virus that causes respiratory illness in people and can spread from person-to-person. This virus was first identified at the end of 2019 during an investigation into an outbreak of respiratory illness and pneumonia in Wuhan, China.

Q: What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

A: Patients with COVID-19 experience mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of fever, cough and shortness of breath. At this time, there is no anti-viral medications currently available to treat COVID-19. Your healthcare provider may recommend rest, fluids and over-the-counter medicines.

Q: How do people catch COVID-19?

A: The virus is spread through respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It can also be spread when someone touches a contaminated surface, such as a door handle.

Q: What should I do if I have any of these symptoms?

A: Unless your symptoms are severe such as difficulty breathing and/or shortness of breath, call your healthcare provider first, rather than showing up in the office or emergency room. When you call or visit, be sure to note your symptoms, and travel history or exposure to a person diagnosed with the virus. People who are experiencing mild symptoms may not need to visit their physician but rather stay home.

Q: How can I protect myself?

A: The following tips will help to prevent COVID-19 as well as other respiratory viruses:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth, especially with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are showing symptoms of illness.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Cover your cough or sneezes with a tissue or sneeze into your elbow. Throw the tissue in the garbage and make sure to clean your hands afterwards.
- Stay home when you are sick.

Q: Should I be wearing a mask?

A: Health officials in the U.S. do not recommend the use of masks among the general public because risk of infection is low and limited to close contacts (e.g., husband and wife).

Q: What do I do if media or press calls?

A: If you receive calls from media, please do not respond and direct them to the Torrance Memorial PR department at 424-931-2339.

Ask a Nurse Hotline - 310-517-1111

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