



**Humboldt General Hospital is prepared to safely screen, diagnose and care for patients with respiratory illness, including coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).**

We continue to monitor coronavirus and ensure constant readiness by working closely with the Rural County Health Department and staying informed of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updates.

Because there is concern regarding the spread of coronavirus in Nevada, we have implemented enhanced infection prevention strategies, such as visitor restrictions and screening procedures, to ensure we are ready, should the need arise.

We are committed to patient confidentiality and will not be providing details about patients in our care. Any confirmed cases of coronavirus will be reported to designated state and federal agencies per governmental guidelines.

As always, prevention is key, and we stress the importance of always using proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.

### **What is the coronavirus?**

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person—usually between people who are in close contact with one another (within 6 feet)—through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. The virus also can be contracted by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching the mouth, nose or eyes. Healthcare workers and household members are at the highest risk of infection ([CDC.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus))

### **What are the symptoms?**

Symptoms may appear in as few as two days and as many as 14.

- Fever
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Severe respiratory illness

To avoid the spread of illness,

- Stay home when you are sick and avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

## Visitor Restrictions

Beginning March 11, 2020, Humboldt General Hospital will restrict visitors to the facility to help limit coronavirus risk. While there are no patients under investigation for coronavirus at HGH at this time, the hospital's focus is on proactively working to lessen the chance of transmission—steps that will help protect our patients, our staff and our community. These restrictions will remain in effect until further notice.

Based on recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health, and our sister hospitals:

- No visitors under the age of 18 will be allowed.
- Pediatric patients (ages 0-18) will be allowed two visitors including parents, guardians or family care partners.
- OB patients will be allowed one visitor.
- Adult patients will be allowed one visitor between the hours of 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.
- Residents at Harmony Manor or Quail Corner are not allowed any visitors except in the case of compassionate care (such as end-of-life).
- Clinic patients may be accompanied by one person to an appointment unless an aide or assistant is required.
- Any visitor who is coughing or shows signs of illness will be asked to leave.
- Humboldt General Hospital's will review special needs and circumstances on a case-by-case basis with patients' medical providers.

Patients and visitors to the facility will be limited to two entrances:

- The hospital's main entrance will be open to patients and visitors to Humboldt General Hospital from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- The Emergency Room will be open 24 hours a day for emergencies and after-hour visitation.
- All other entrances to HGH, including the hospital's underground parking garage, will be closed until further notice.

All patients and visitors to the facility will be screened at the hospital's two entrances:

- All patients and visitors to Humboldt General Hospital will be screened in accordance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines for fever, respiratory or influenza-like illness, and recent travel.
- Visitors with fever, respiratory or influenza-like illness, or who have recently traveled to an area with sustained (ongoing) transmission, will be restricted from visitation.

## Care Guidelines

In order to mitigate the potential transmission of coronavirus at Humboldt General Hospital:

- Humboldt General Hospital has opened the HGH West Campus at 51 E. Haskell Street as a designated primary location for the screening of patients who are experiencing respiratory illness, including influenza, streptococcal infections and RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend that patients first be screened for other causes of respiratory illness before being tested for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Patients can expect to be greeted at the door to the West Campus by an HGH staff member who

will confirm they are experiencing respiratory symptoms and provide them with a mask. If patients cannot immediately be taken to an examination room, they will be asked to wait in their vehicle in order to prevent the spread of respiratory illness in the waiting room. The healthcare provider will provide diagnosis and treatment, including medication prescriptions; orders for respiratory, radiology and/or laboratory testing; recommendations for level of care (including home care and possible self-isolation); and/or testing for COVID-19. The screening clinic is open **8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday**; all patients who are experiencing respiratory illness should avoid the hospital and go directly to the HGH West Campus clinic location. After hours and on weekends, patients who have severe symptoms of fever, cough and difficulty breathing should call Humboldt General Hospital's Emergency Department at (775) 623-5222, ext. 1240, to speak with a staff member prior to entering the hospital building. The HGH Walk-In Clinic also is available after hours and on Saturdays until 8 p.m. for mild symptoms of fever, cough or respiratory illness.

- **SENIORS** who are experiencing respiratory illness should **CALL** the West Campus screening clinic at (775) 623-5222, ext. 1379, (Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) prior to arrival. Staff will direct their arrival. After hours and on weekends, seniors should call the HGH Nurse Health Line at (775) 621-0105 for instructions on how to proceed. Seniors who are experiencing severe respiratory distress should proceed immediately to the HGH Emergency Department or call 9-1-1 for emergency response and transport.
- Patients who have mild symptoms of fever, cough or respiratory illness also may call Humboldt General Hospital at (775) 623-5222 during regular business hours and ask to speak to their healthcare provider. Patients who do not have a healthcare provider may call the HGH Nurse Health Line at (775) 621-0105 24 hours a day, or the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health at 1-800-860-0620 Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Patients who have questions or concerns about the coronavirus should call the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health at 1-800-860-0620 Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

### **Coronavirus Screening**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend that patients first be screened for other causes of respiratory illness, including influenza, streptococcal infections and RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus), before being tested for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Patients who have questions regarding coronavirus screening in Humboldt County should call the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health at 1-800-860-0620 Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

### **Cancellations**

In a preventative effort to reduce exposure to respiratory illness, including coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), Humboldt General Hospital has canceled all events, classes, meeting room space, and tours.

This includes any group that regularly meets in the Sarah Winnemucca Conference Room, the Sonoma Conference Room or the EMS Station Training Room. **Please check back for updates on when gatherings will be rescheduled.**

- All HGH-sponsored support groups, including the Diabetes Support Group and the Healthy You Weight Loss Support Group.
- All HGH-sponsored baby classes, including Childbirth Education, Lactation Education and Newborn Care.

- All tours of the HGH Mother and Baby Unit, the HGH EMS Rescue Station and/or visits to the Harmony Manor Skilled Nursing and Residential Care Community and the Quail Corner Life Enrichment Community.
- All HGH-sponsored seminars and workshops, including Healthy Year, Healthy You.
- All HGH EMS Rescue-sponsored classes, courses and trainings.
- All community support groups, meetings, gatherings and trainings.

These measures are designed to protect the health and safety of all patients, visitors, staff and volunteers and help reduce the potential spread of the COVID-19 virus. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have provided specific guidelines on social distancing, which means avoiding mass gatherings and maintaining a minimum distance of six feet from other people when possible.