

July 2, 2020

Alternative Testing Site Hours

The alternative testing site in Plaza 15 behind McCann School of Business continues to see high volumes of people seeking COVID-19 testing. As a result, the site will remain open Friday, July 3, 2020, during normal hours—9 am to 6 pm.

The site will be closed Saturday and Sunday, July 4-5, and will reopen Monday, July 6, at 9 am.

Testing Results

(As of 12:30 pm)

Total tested – 3,059

Positive results – 275

Awaiting Results – 288

Deaths – 2

June 26, 2020

Changes in Visitation Policy

In an effort to balance the desire of loved ones to visit patients at Evangelical Community Hospital and maintain the safest environment possible, the Hospital will be adjusting its visitation policy.

Effective Monday, June 29, 2020, all non-COVID-19 inpatients will be permitted two designated support persons during their stay in the Hospital. Inpatient units include Acute Rehabilitation, Intensive Care, Step Down, Orthopaedics, and Surgical.

The two designated support persons can only visit the patient one at a time. The support person not visiting with the patient must remain in the Donehower-Eisenhower Lobby or outside the facility.

All support persons will be issued “visitor” wristbands that must be displayed to staff each time they enter the facility. In addition, they must be screened daily.

No visitors will be permitted for inpatients who are diagnosed with or suspected of having COVID-19.

The visitation restrictions for the Emergency Department, end-of-life situations, The Family Place, outpatient testing/appointments, outpatient surgeries/procedures, and Pediatrics remain unchanged. Those restrictions are listed below.

Emergency Department

- One designated, on-site support person may accompany the patient.
- Support person must remain in the patient’s room.
- No visitors for patients who are suspected or confirmed as having COVID-19.
- No visitors for patients presenting through the D door (decontamination room), until cleared from airborne precautions.
- Potential visitors will have to remain in their cars until cleared to come in.
- For patients under the age of 18: one dedicated caregiver for the entire stay.
- Exceptions to the Emergency Department visitor restrictions may be made for patients who are nearing the end of life.

End-of-life Situations

- Two visitors at a time for a non-COVID patient.
- If more than two visitors wish to see the patient, the other visitors must wait outside in their vehicle or designated area and enter and exit the facility two at a time.
- Visitors must remain in the patient's room unless asked to step outside by a care provider or staff member.

The Family Place (Laboring Mother)

- One designated support person for the duration of the Hospital stay.

Outpatient testing/appointments (Lab, Imaging, PT, Physician and Clinic Practices [EMSO], includes Geisinger offices located in the Professional Office Building)

- One support person may accompany the patient.
- Support person may be asked to wait in their vehicle or designated area, if physical distancing cannot be achieved in waiting or care areas.

Outpatient Surgeries/Procedures (includes Ambulatory Surgical Center, Endoscopy Center, One-Day Surgery)

- One designated support person may accompany patient.
- Support person may be asked to wait in their vehicle or designated area, if physical distancing cannot be achieved in waiting or care areas.

Pediatric Inpatients

- Up to two designated caregivers for the duration of the Hospital stay.
- Support person(s) must remain in the patient's room as much as possible.

June 19, 2020

No COVID-19 Patients at This Time

For the first time in 100 days, there are no inpatients at the Hospital receiving care for COVID-19. The last remaining patient was discharged the evening of Thursday, June 18, 2020 with a nice clap out celebration held by second shift staff.

The Hospital remains ready to care for COVID-19 patients when needed.

June 18, 2020

COVID-19 Visiting Hours

The Hospital continues to operate under COVID-19 visitor restrictions. Visiting hours are for the patient's one designated on-site support person from 1-8 pm daily, except for the Family Place (one designated support person during the patient's entire stay) and pediatric inpatient (up to two designated caregivers for the duration of the Hospital stay). Switching of support persons is not permitted.

Support persons will not be permitted for patients who are suspected or confirmed as having COVID-19. Visitors with symptoms of respiratory illness such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath will not be permitted inside the facility.

Beginning Sunday, June 21, 2020, designated visitors will be identified by neon pink wrist bands that clearly identify their status. These bands replace the green bands that have been used previously.

June 16, 2020

Alternate Care Site to be Removed

By the end of June, the alternate care site that was established next to the Emergency Department in the event of a COVID-19 surge, will be disassembled and removed. In the meantime, the space will be kept open. If a surge of COVID-19 does occur, it will be utilized to redeploy the alternate care site.

West Branch Medical Center Laboratory Opening

The laboratory location in West Branch Medical Center will reopen to patients on Monday, June 29, 2020. Hours of operation will be 7:30 am-4 pm, Monday through Friday only.

Patients will need to have a hard copy of their laboratory orders with them to avoid delays in moving individuals through the small waiting area. For questions or to obtain laboratory orders, contact your primary care provider. Only one patient will be permitted to be in the actual lab area at any one time.

Physician and Clinic Practice Re-Open Plan Continues

Additional physician and clinic practices are beginning operations as part of the phased reopening plan. Patients have access to the following practices/services starting on the date listed:

- SUN Orthopaedics – Williamsport, *opened Monday, June 15, 2020*
- SUN Orthopaedics – Elysburg, *opened Monday, June 15, 2020*
- Physical Therapy - Selinsgrove 522, *opening on June 22, 2020*

June 9, 2020

Lewisburg YMCA at the Miller Center Reopening

The Lewisburg YMCA at the Miller Center will reopen to members on Monday, June 15, 2020.

Similar to the Hospital, the YMCA is planning a phased return to services at the Miller Center. In the initial phase, members will have access to the fitness area only and there will be no in-person group exercise classes. The Center will have adjusted hours of operation: 6:30 am to 7 pm Monday through Friday and 8 am to 3 pm Saturday and Sunday.

From 2 to 3 pm Monday through Friday, members are asked to allow active older adults and other vulnerable populations safe access to the fitness facility.

The Miller Center is adhering to Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH) guidelines to ensure members stay safe while exercising.

After careful consideration, the decision was made not to reopen the Cornerstone Kitchen, the café serving the Miller Center. The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted revenue at the Center and is expected to continue impacting utilization of services in the foreseeable future. The retail café is

just not financially viable any longer.

The kitchen space will now be used to host educational programming focused on nutrition and healthy eating as well as support large event catering services.

Employees affected by the decision are being offered the opportunity to apply for open positions within the organization.

June 4, 2020

Green Wristbands for Inpatient and ODS Visitors

It is understandable that a designated support person for an inpatient or a patient in One-Day Surgery may leave the facility and return several times in a day.

To help staff quickly and efficiently identify these visitors, the Hospital has started issuing green wristbands to these visitors.

For Inpatients

If the patient is admitted through the Emergency Department and the support person is present at the time of admission, they will be issued the green wristband at that time. If the designated support person arrives at another time, the staff at Donehower-Eisenhower Pavilion will confirm the individual has been designated as the support person by the patient and issue the wristband.

For One-Day Surgery

The green wristband will be issued to the support person when they arrive with the patient at the Donehower-Eisenhower Pavilion for screening.

Testing Results

(As of 1 pm)

Total tested – 1,733

Positive results – 196

Awaiting Results – 68

Deaths – 2

June 1, 2020

Community Health Programming

With most of the region still in the state's COVID-19 yellow phase, Community Health and Wellness programming for June has been cancelled.

Testing Results

(As of 12:30 pm)

Total tested – 1,600

Positive results – 171

Awaiting Results – 50

Deaths – 2

May 29, 2020

Updated Visitor Restrictions

Recognizing the need to balance continued infection control protocols regarding the spread of COVID-19 and the desire of loved ones and caregivers to visit with and support patients, new visitor restrictions are being established.

These new visitor policies are effective Monday, June 1, 2020.

All visitors will be screened when entering any of Evangelical's facilities and will be required to wear a mask while inside. Any visitor with symptoms of respiratory illness—such as a fever, cough, or shortness of breath—will not be permitted inside the facility. All visitors must be 18 years of age or older.

Visitors may be asked to leave the facility and wait in their vehicle or a designated area, if physical distancing is no longer possible at their destination or they fail to adhere to the policies, protocols, and requests from staff members.

The Hospital's Dining Room and Gift Shop remain closed to visitors.

For Inpatients:

- One dedicated, on-site patient support person. The patient must identify their support person.
- Patients who are suspected or confirmed as having COVID-19 will not be permitted any visitors.
- If two patients are in a room, the curtain separating the room must be pulled and the support person must remain in their patient's side of the room as much as possible.
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) and masking protocols must be followed.
- Visiting hours are from 1-8 pm.

For Pediatric Inpatients:

- Up to two dedicated caregivers for the duration of the Hospital stay.
- Caregivers must remain in the patient's room as much as possible.

For Laboring Mothers:

- One dedicated support person for the duration of the Hospital stay.

For End-of-life Situations:

- Two visitors at a time for a non-COVID patient.
- If more than two visitors wish to see the patient, the other visitors must wait outside in their vehicle or designated area and enter and exit the facility two at a time.
- Visitors must remain in the patient's room unless asked to step outside by a care provider or staff member.

For Outpatient Testing and Appointments (Laboratory, Imaging, Physical Therapy, Physician and Clinic Practices):

- One person may accompany the patient.
- The support person may be asked to wait in their vehicle or designated area, if appropriate physical distancing cannot be achieved in the waiting or care area.

For Outpatient Surgeries and Procedures at the Ambulatory Surgical Center, Endoscopy Center, and One Day Surgery:

- One support person may accompany patient.
- The support person may be asked to wait in their vehicle or designated area, if appropriate physical distancing cannot be achieved in the waiting or care area.

For the Emergency Department:

- One dedicated, on-site support person may accompany the patient.
- Support person must remain in the patient's room.
- Emergency Department patients under the age of 18 can have one dedicated caregiver with them during the entire stay.
- Exceptions to the Emergency Department visitor restrictions may be made for patients who are nearing the end of life.

May 27, 2020

Testing Results

(As of 10:30 am)

Total tested – 1,458

Positive results – 149

Awaiting Results – 104

Deaths – 2

May 26, 2020

Kids Camp Closing at the Miller Center

The Kids Camp at the Miller Center, which has been providing childcare for Hospital employees during the pandemic, will close Friday, June 5, 2020.

On Monday, June 1, 2020, the Greater Susquehanna Valley YMCA branches in Milton and Sunbury will reopen to provide childcare for pre-kindergarten and school-age children. On Monday, June 8, 2020, the Lewisburg YMCA at the Miller Center will be starting a school-age summer care program.

For information on any of these programs, contact Bonnie McDowell, GSV YMCA CEO, at ymcaexec@ptd.net.

The Miller Center will remain closed to all non-childcare operations.

Physical Therapy Locations Reopening

Physical Therapy of Evangelical locations in Plaza 15, Lewisburg, and Mount Pleasant Mills are scheduled to reopen on Monday, June 1, 2020.

COVID-19 Testing Results

(As of 1:30 pm)

Total tested – 1,390

Positive results – 148

Awaiting Results – 48

Deaths – 2

May 22, 2020

Professional Office Building Entrance

In an effort to accommodate patients with appointments at practices located in the Professional Office Building, a screening station will be established on Tuesday, May 26, 2020, at the central entrance on the south-facing side of the building.

The entrance, which will be clearly marked with temporary signage above the door and on ground level, will be open from 7:30 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday.

This entrance is for patients only.

Additional Offices Opening

Several of SUN Orthopaedics of Evangelical's offices are scheduled to reopen in mid-June. Patients are slated to be seen at the Elysburg, Selinsgrove, and Williamsport locations beginning Monday, June 15.

As previously announced, Family Medicine of Evangelical – 98 Reitz Blvd, Lewisburg will open to patients on Tuesday, May 26, 2020, while Family Medicine of Evangelical – Middleburg will re-open on Monday, June 1.

May 21, 2020

Public Requests for Antibody Testing

A number of individuals have presented at the Alternative Testing Site seeking antibody testing. As this requires a blood draw, the public is asked to contact their primary care provider to secure an order for the testing. With a physician order in hand, individuals can then visit any of the Hospital's outpatient lab sites to have their blood drawn and testing completed. The results will be communicated to the ordering physician.

Available outpatient lab sites can be found at evanhospital.com/about/locations. During this time, appointments are strongly encouraged by calling the main phone number of the lab location to help prevent an overwhelming number of people in the waiting areas of these locations.

May 20, 2020

Alternative Test Site Hours

The Alternative Test Site, located behind McCann School of Business in Plaza 15, will be closed Monday, May 25, 2020, in observance of Memorial Day.

As previously announced, the site is now closed on Saturdays and Sundays. It is open 9 am to 6 pm Monday through Friday.

Testing Results

(As of 12:45 pm)

Total tested – 1,185

Positive results – 125

Awaiting Results – 57

Deaths – 2

May 18, 2020

Testing Results

(As of 11 am)

Total tested – 1,102

Positive results – 113

Awaiting Results – 55

Deaths – 2

May 15, 2020

Primary Care Office opening

Following the organization's phased re-opening model, several primary care offices are slated to re-open to patients in the next several weeks.

Family Medicine of Evangelical offices at 3 Hospital Drive, Suite 214 (Professional Office Building), Lewisburg, and Northumberland will open Monday, May 18, 2020. The office at 98 Reitz Boulevard, Lewisburg, will open Tuesday, May 26, 2020, and the office in Middleburg will open Monday, June 1, 2020.

In an effort to maintain social distancing and to ensure proper screening, individuals looking to utilize Lab services at all of the Hospital's primary care offices will be asked to call the office in advance.

Testing Results

(As of noon)

Total tested – 1,034

Positive results – 108

Awaiting Results – 45

Deaths – 2

May 14, 2020

Serology Testing Launch

With the PA Department of Health Emergency Use Authorization in hand, the Laboratory will begin in-house antibody testing on Friday, May 15, 2020. This testing isn't used to diagnose COVID-19; instead, it's used to determine if someone has previously been exposed to the disease and has developed antibodies to SARS-CoV-2, the actual virus that causes COVID-19.

Serology testing can give governing agencies, such as the CDC and DOH, the community-level immune response data they need to make informed decisions about social distancing, opening places of business, and the effectiveness of vaccines.

The Hospital is currently evaluating how best to positively impact the health of the community and the organization with this new testing. More details will be shared when the plans are finalized.

Reminder: Alternative Collection Site

Anyone seeking COVID-19 testing is reminded that the alternate test site located behind the McCann School of Business in the Plaza 15 along Route 15 in Lewisburg is available and should be used. There is a large PennDOT road sign directing traffic at the entrance to the shopping center.

Currently, the site is open from 9 am to 6 pm Monday through Friday.

Those hours are subject to change. With other providers closing alternative collection sites, an increase in traffic has been coming to the test site at Plaza 15 and hours may have to be adjusted accordingly to meet demand.

Testing Results

(As of 1:30 pm)

Total tested – 990

Positive results – 103

Awaiting Results – 47

Deaths – 2

May 13, 2020**Working with Long-term Care Facilities**

Surrounded by numerous long-term care facilities, the Hospital welcomes the responsibility of assisting these facilities in caring for their residents.

Today (Monday, May 13), Evangelical met with representatives from most of the area nursing homes to help them adhere to the PA Department of Health's COVID-19 testing recommendations for residents and employees.

Blood Drive Scheduled

The Red Cross has scheduled a blood drive from 10 am to 3 pm Thursday, May 21, 2020, at The Miller Center. Currently, appointments are still available between 12:30 and 2:30 pm.

To make an appointment, visit <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive> or call [1-800-733-2767](tel:1-800-733-2767).

Anyone supporting the blood drive is asked to use the main entrance to the center (the entrance facing the rear of the Giant store).

For information on Red Cross safety protocols related to COVID-19 and donations, visit: <https://www.redcrossblood.org/donate-blood/dlp/coronavirus--covid-19--and-blood-donation.html>

Testing Results

(As of 12:30 pm)

Total tested – 941

Positive results – 101

Awaiting Results – 31

Deaths – 2

May 12, 2020

New Schedule for Alternative Collection Site

Due to low volumes over the weekends, the Hospital's Alternative Collection Site, located behind McCann School of Business in the Plaza 15 Shopping Center, will now be open from 9 am to 6 pm Monday through Friday. The site will be closed Saturday and Sunday.

This change of schedule will go into effect this weekend (Saturday and Sunday, May 16-17, 2020).

The staff at the collection site is now also handling the Hospital's COVID-19 hotline. That service will mirror the same hours of operation—9 am to 6 pm Monday through Friday.

Testing Results

(As of 1 pm)

Total tested – 913

Positive results – 97

Awaiting Results – 14

Deaths – 2

May 11, 2020**Continued Opening**

The Hospital is continuing to open practices and ramp up procedures. Today, surgical cases started at the Ambulatory Surgical Center and another operating room was opened at the Hospital.

In total, there are 22 surgical cases scheduled today.

Last week, the Endoscopy Center was opened and finished the week with 35 endoscopies completed. There are eight more scheduled there today along with seven at the EASC and eight more at the Hospital endoscopy suite.

In addition, Selinsgrove Imaging Center opened all modalities today.

Testing Results (As of 2 pm)

Total tested – 899

Positive results – 95

Awaiting Results – 12

Deaths – 2

Image from Today's COVID-19 Discharge Celebration

Thank you to everyone who was able to make today's celebration. The Hospital sent Bob Maurer home with his family after 32 days of care. Congratulations, Bob!



May 8, 2020

Surgical Specialists Office Opening

The Surgical Specialists of Evangelical office at 25 Lystra Rogers Drive will open Monday, May 11, 2020.

Providers from that office have been seeing General Surgery and Ear, Nose, and Throat (ENT) patients at the Center for Orthopaedics, 210 JPM Road, as part of the Hospital's effort to consolidate outpatient services. Audiology was closed as a service.

Audiology is now re-opening and all General Surgery, ENT, and Audiology patients will be seen at 25 Lystra Rogers Drive beginning Monday, May 11.

May 7, 2020

Testing Results

(As of 1:30 pm)

Total tested – 852

Positive results – 91

Awaiting Results – 18

Deaths – 1

May 6, 2020

Vendor Restrictions Continue

With the Hospital still in pandemic status, visitation restrictions on vendors remain in effect at the Hospital, the ambulatory surgical center, and all clinics.

Only essential vendors are permitted at Hospital facilities. An essential vendor is defined as a vendor who provides patient monitoring, has been deemed essential by the surgeon and/or procedure, is pre-approved and scheduled for clinical staff training, or provides a service that is contracted and necessary to ensure facility operations.

Essential vendors must complete screening before entering the facility and wear a mask while in the facility.

All vendors not meeting the definition of essential are not permitted to visit the Hospital, the ambulatory surgical center, or any clinic until further notice.

Testing Results

(As of 2:45 pm)

Total tested – 839

Positive results – 87

Awaiting Results – 24

Deaths – 1

May 5, 2020

Testing Results

(As of 12:15 pm)

Total tested – 832

Positive results – 85

Awaiting Results – 35

Deaths – 1

April 29, 2020

Monday's announcement permitting elective surgeries and procedures was certainly welcome news for the Hospital.

With that said, reopening will be done as a methodical, phased approach.

The Hospital needs to maintain the ability to address the continued presence of COVID-19 in the community and remain nimble enough to respond to a possible surge.

The Phased Re-opening

The safest way to start the process of re-opening will be with outpatient facilities.

Opening Monday, May 4, 2020:

- Endoscopy Center
- Gastroenterology
- Endocrinology
- Rheumatology
- Neurology
- Palliative Medicine
- Psychology

The Hospital's primary care offices will continue operating in a consolidated model. Currently, primary care providers are seeing patients in:

- Lewisburg
- Selinsgrove
- Milton
- Mifflinburg

OB/GYN, the Heart and Vascular Center, Wound/Hyperbaric Medicine, and Center for Breast Health will also continue as they have been operating. These practices have been seeing patients on a modified schedule throughout the pandemic.

SUN Orthopaedics and Surgical Specialists will continue to see patients at The Center for Orthopaedics, 210 JPM Road. All other SUN Orthopaedics locations will remain closed.

The Physical Therapy clinics will begin to expand their appointment schedules to accommodate patients who were unable to complete their therapy prior to the clinic closures. The clinics that are currently closed will remain closed until the open clinics are operating at capacity.

Open Physical Therapy clinics:

- Selinsgrove (Susquehanna Valley Mall Drive)
- Mifflinburg (Forrest Hill)
- Middleburg
- Williamsport
- Elysburg
- Lewisburg (the Miller Center)

Selinsgrove Imaging Center will resume limited operations on Monday, May 4, 2020, to support Family Practice Center and area residents needing imaging services.

Appointments in the clinics will be scheduled in a way that allows for safe social distancing.

Surgeries and procedures at the ambulatory surgical center will begin on Monday, May 11, 2020.

Two additional operating rooms at the Hospital will open on Monday, May 11, 2020, to accommodate some elective cases, but will be done in a balanced approach that allows the Hospital to manage COVID-19 volumes.

Continued Precautions

The Hospital has a responsibility to protect one another, patients, and community members by continuing with the best infection control practices associated with controlling the spread of COVID-19.

To that end, the following protocols remain in place:

- Screening of patients and employees will continue.
- Requiring everyone to wear masks will continue.
- COVID-19 pathways will be maintained to ensure positive or suspected positive patients are separated from non-COVID-19 patients.
- Visitation restrictions will remain in place, with limited exceptions, and the number of entry points to services will continue to be limited.

- The Gift Shop and Dining Room will remain closed to patients and visitors.

In addition, the Lewisburg YMCA at the Miller Center will remain closed for fitness and recreation programming, but childcare will still be available at the facility.

April 28, 2020

Testing Results

(As of 1:50 pm)

Total tested – 718

Positive results – 74

Awaiting Results – 39

Deaths – 1

April 27, 2020

Elective Surgeries and Procedures

Elective surgeries and procedures have been canceled through the week of May 4, 2020. Decisions regarding elective procedures will continue to be made week by week to best manage patient communication and maintain the Hospital's ability to quickly ramp operating rooms back up when that is permissible.

Testing Results

(As of noon)

Total tested – 687

Positive results – 73

Awaiting Results – 19

Deaths – 1

April 24, 2020

Testing Results

(As of 2:30 pm)

Total tested – 645

Positive results – 71

Awaiting Results – 21

Deaths – 1

April 23, 2020

Food Donations

The community continues to generously support staff efforts with donations of food.

Anyone interested in donating food, should call Nutritional Services at [570-522-4056](tel:570-522-4056).

The food must be prepared in a commercial/regulated kitchen such as those at restaurants, bakeries, etc. Nutritional Services will coordinate delivery and distribution of

the donated food.

Testing Results

(As of noon)

Total tested – 626

Positive results – 70

Awaiting Results – 19

Deaths – 1

April 22, 2020

COVID-19 Testing Kits

The Hospital recently received a quantity of COVID-19 testing kits which will provide results within an hour of the samples arriving in the Hospital's Lab.

Because of the limited supply received, use of the kits will be prioritized for patients who have been admitted to the Hospital, Emergency Department patients who are going to be admitted, and patients being discharged to skilled nursing facilities.

In-house testing for COVID-19 began the morning of April 22, 2020.

Testing Results

(As of 1 pm)

Total tested – 614

Positive results – 65

Awaiting Results – 32

Deaths – 1

April 21, 2020

Testing Results

(As of 11 am)

Total tested – 593

Positive results – 62

Awaiting Results – 32

Deaths – 1

April 20, 2020

Testing Results

(As of noon)

Total tested – 572
Positive results – 59
Awaiting Results – 20
Deaths – 1

Elective Surgeries and Procedures

Elective surgeries and procedures have been canceled through the week of April 27, 2020. Decisions regarding elective procedures will continue to be made week by week to best manage patient communication and maintain the Hospital's ability to quickly ramp operating rooms back up when that is permissible.

April 10, 2020

Plain Community Support

Evangelical Community Hospital continues to enjoy the benefits of a collaborative relationship with the Plain Community. That community has responded to the crisis by producing and donating hundreds of cloth masks for use at the Hospital. And, they are showing no signs of slowing!

The donated masks are being laundered by Steininger's Laundry and Dry Cleaning and are being distributed to patients arriving at the Hospital to access services.

In addition, members of the Plain Community are helping to produce gowns made from Tyvek, a building wrap product often used in the construction of homes. The synthetic product from DuPont prevents moisture infiltration but is breathable.

Evangelical Community Hospital's medical experts continue to educate the community's leaders on what they can do to help stop the spread of the virus and answer any questions.

April 9, 2020

Testing Results

As of 9 am today (Thursday, April 9, 2020), Evangelical is reporting the following testing numbers:

- 413 patients tested
 - 367 results received
 - 24 positive results
 - 46 results not yet received
 - 1 death
-

April 8, 2020

Screening Contractors

A process has been put in place to screen contractors—including temperature, travel history, and symptoms—as they arrive on campus to work on the PRIME (Patient Room Improvement, Modernization, and Enhancement) project.

Miller Center Cancellations

The YMCA at the Miller Center has cancelled all events and participatory sports through the end of April with the expectation that the facility will remain closed over the same timeframe.

April 6, 2020

Emergency Department Alternative Exam Site

Evangelical Community Hospital continues to plan for a potential surge in confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases. To manage times when the current COVID-19 Emergency Department exam area (the ambulance garage bay) is at capacity, tents are being erected in the ambulance driveway on the north side of the Hospital.

The tents are being installed today and the site should be available as needed beginning Tuesday, April 7, 2020.

Elective Surgeries and Procedures

Evangelical has made the decision to continue cancellation of all elective surgeries and procedures through the week of April 13, 2020. A decision on these types of surgeries will be made week-by-week. Any reopening of elective surgeries will be clearly communicated, and staff will contact patients to reschedule when it is permissible to begin offering those types of procedures.

April 5, 2020

Mandatory Masking

Effective Monday, April 6, 2020, everyone entering Hospital facilities, including off-site locations, will be required to mask. Patients will receive masks at entry screening points. The mask is required to be worn at all times when in any facility including in all patient care, common areas, and hallways.

Temperature Screening

Effective Monday, April 6, 2020, everyone entering Hospital facilities, including off-site locations, will undergo a temperature screening before entry is permitted.

Changing Alternative Testing Site Hours

Effective Monday, April 6, 2020, the Hospital's alternative testing site for COVID-19, located behind McCann School of Business in the Plaza 15 Shopping Center along Route in Lewisburg, will be open 9 am to 6 pm daily.

Additional Visitor Limitations

To further adhere to the state's stay-at-home directive and to help control the spread of COVID-19, Evangelical's restrictions on visitation are tightening.

The Hospital will no longer allow patients arriving at Donehower-Eisenhower Pavilion for Imaging and Laboratory services to be escorted by a visitor. Exceptions will include patients in wheelchairs, those who need assistance walking, children under the age of 18, and any patient with cognitive impairment.

The same restrictions apply to Urgent Care and all outpatient offices.

These newest restrictions are in addition to the existing restrictions:

The Emergency Department will no longer allow any visitors. Anyone accompanying a patient to the ED will be asked to wait outside of the facility in their vehicle.

Visitation has also been limited to one parent for any patient under the age of 18.

April 2, 2020

COVID-19 Emergency Fund

Along with supplies and food, the Hospital is grateful for those in the community who have expressed a desire to offer the Hospital financial support in these difficult times. By suspending elective surgeries and procedures as well as condensing outpatient practices, net revenue has been reduced by more than 30%. At the same time, the Hospital has had to make significant, unplanned investments in more protective equipment.

To make a donation, mail a check payable to Evangelical Community Hospital with COVID-19 Emergency Fund in the Memo to Evangelical Community Hospital, Attention Development-00A, 1 Hospital Drive, Lewisburg, Pa. 17837. Individuals can also use the online donation form at evanhospital.com/support. Be sure to click the box for giving in the memory or honor of someone and write COVID-19 Emergency Fund in the comments section of the form.

Changes in Visitation Restrictions

As the Hospital works to continue to try to limit exposure of the staff working on-site and patients who need services and care, further visitation restrictions have been made.

The Emergency Department will no longer allow any visitors. Anyone accompanying a patient to the ED will be asked to wait outside of the facility in their vehicle.

Visitation has also been limited to one parent for any patient under the age of 18.

Telemedicine Details

Telemedicine advancements continue to be utilized at the Hospital.

The Emergency Department providers are able to use video technology to view patients being seen in the COVID-19 screening area outside of the building without leaving the ED. Inpatient providers are able to use iPads to seek video consults from other providers for COVID-19 patients without exposing more individuals to the patient. Outpatient office providers are able to conduct video-to-voice consults for most patient visits.

PRIME

The PRIME Project began ramping back up last week and contractors are back on-site this week.

Quandel, the Hospital's construction partner, has developed site-specific guidelines that include screening for illness, installation of hand washing and hand sanitizing stations, as well as assignment of work areas by designated trade and shift to reduce congregation of workers at any time. The site is also cleaned by an independent contractor daily.

On average 40 to 45 workers per each shift, there are two, will be on-site working in their specialty areas compared to around 130 during one shift prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The construction site continues to remain blocked off from existing parts of the Hospital that are active in providing healthcare. The two sites remain completely separate. An exception to this will occur April 6-8 when electrical contractors will need to access the basement of the Hospital to complete some work. All workers will enter the facility through the Rooke Pavilion and will be screened the same way Evangelical employees are screened.

The Hospital and Quandel are currently assessing any impact the COVID-19 response will have on the project schedule. Any change to the timeline will be communicated as soon as the plan is finalized.

April 1, 2020

Community Support

The Hospital has received numerous requests from the community asking how they can show their appreciation for staff and the work being done for the community during this pandemic. In addition to monetary support and donations of food and supplies, a method has been established to send cards, notes, and other visual displays.

Community members can send well wishes to together@evanhospital.com. Received notes and cards will be displayed on the Hospital's intranet to inspire and support employees. Some items may be selected to be shared on the Hospital's social media outlets from time to time.

March 31, 2020

Selinsgrove Imaging Center Update

All appointments at the Selinsgrove Imaging Center for April are being rescheduled to the Hospital Imaging Department.

Telemedicine Launched

IT and the EMSO Administration have worked to launch a telemedicine option. A number of EMSO providers have been set up with the system and are beginning to utilize it this week.

Patients Seeking COVID-19 Test Results

Patients waiting for COVID-19 test results who are unable to connect with their ordering physician can be referred to the Hospital's alternate testing site at [570-522-2800](tel:570-522-2800), option 2.

March 30, 2020

Elective Surgeries and Procedures

With the federal government's announcement that restrictions will be continued through the end of April, Evangelical has cancelled all elective surgeries and procedures through the week of April 6, 2020. The Hospital will continue to make that decision week by week to best manage patient communication and maintain our ability to quickly re-activate operating rooms when that is permissible.

COVID-19 Test Results

As of 11 am Monday, March 30, 2020, Evangelical has the following to report: 194 tested; 101 test results received; 6 positive results; and 1 death.

COVID-19 test results are slow in returning. Some patients are reporting waits of a week or more for their tests results. This is prompting a high volume of phone calls to the Emergency Department and Telecommunications as anxious community members look for more information.

At this time, there's nothing further the Hospital can do to speed the process. All test results are being communicated to the ordering physician. Patients should be directed to contact the office of the physician who ordered their test. That office will be the first to be notified of the results.

Food Donations

Anyone who would like to donate food to Evangelical staff on duty, should call 570-522-4056 to arrange delivery.

COVID-19 Hotline

To provide the community with another resource Evangelical is launching a COVID-19

hotline at 8 am Tuesday, March 31, 2020. Community members with health and wellness questions related to COVID-19 or Hospital operation questions should be directed to call 570-522-4530. The phones will be open from 8 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday.

The hotline will be staffed by licensed staff who can help guide community members to the appropriate care. The clinicians will also have access to operational updates to answer questions related to those issues.

March 29, 2020

We are grateful to our community for thinking of Evangelical Community Hospital (ECH) employees during the COVID-19 crisis. We have received an outpouring of calls from concerned friends who would like to offer support. While we appreciate the offer of homemade food items, due to infection control protocols we are unable to accept foods prepared in a home kitchen. We can accept food that is prepared in a commercial kitchen, such as a restaurant, with a current food license. We can also accept food in an original, unopened packaging, such as pretzels, chips, and cookies.

If you would like to make a food donation to ECH staff on duty, please contact 570-522-4056 in advance of ordering to arrange delivery rather than contacting individuals or departments. Food donations will be accepted only between 9:00 am and 7:00 pm.

We ask anyone wishing to donate nonperishable food items to contact their local food bank.

If you would like to make a monetary donation to Evangelical Community Hospital in honor of our caregivers please call 570-522-2685 or donate online at www.evanhospital.com/donation.

March 27, 2020

Blood Drive Scheduled

The national blood supply is beginning to run low as a result of the COVID-19 response. While Evangelical's supply level remains at normal levels, it's important to maintain a strong supply for those in need. A blood drive for employees and the public will be held from 11 am to 4 pm Tuesday, March 31, 2020, at the Physical Therapy of Evangelical office in Plaza 15, Lewisburg.

To schedule an appointment, healthy and eligible individuals are asked to visit www.redcross.org or call 1-800-733-2767. Walk-ins are always welcome!

For information on Red Cross safety protocols related to COVID-19 and donations, visit: <https://www.redcrossblood.org/donate-blood/dlp/coronavirus--covid-19--and-blood-donation.html>.

March 26, 2020

The Hospital has confirmed two positive results of COVID-19.

This is not unexpected. The more people tested by the Hospital, the greater the likelihood that positive tests will result. As testing of the community continues, more confirmed positive cases will be found.

Rest assured all federal, state, and Hospital safety protocols were followed in the treatment of these patients. Staff members involved in the care of the patients used the appropriate protective measures, are now considered low risk in terms of possible infection and are self-monitoring for symptoms.

Everything that could possibly be done to make sure that these COVID-19 cases remain contained from a Hospital standpoint has been done. Patients should not be in fear of seeking services nor should staff be in fear of providing services in the Hospital.

The Hospital is ready. Though these were the first cases of confirmed positive at Evangelical, they will not likely be the only cases until the COVID-19 pandemic passes.

“Please remain calm; check on your neighbor; offer to help when you see the need; simply be kind to one another,” said Kendra Aucker, President and CEO, Evangelical Community Hospital. “This is a challenging new normal for the community. We must respond with compassion.”

March 25, 2020

COVID-19 Unit Opens

The Hospital has been actively planning for the need to segregate possible COVID-19 patients from patients coming to the Hospital for other reasons since the crisis began to unfold. The plan, based on best infection control practices, is about protecting patients.

Patients who are awaiting COVID-19 test results are now being placed in a COVID-19 Unit. To-date, Evangelical Community Hospital has not had a positive result.

West Branch Medical Center Lab Collection Site Closed

Consolidation of services continue. The Lab collection site at West Branch Medical Center will be closing effective 7 pm, Wednesday, March 25, 2020.

Patients seeking Lab Services should report to the Hospital or Family Medicine of Evangelical offices located in Mifflinburg, Milton, and Selinsgrove.

eCards Still Available

While visitation is restricted for inpatients at Evangelical Community Hospital during the COVID-19 response, family and friends can send ecards, which are available to express best wishes to those recovering at the Hospital. The cards are customizable and free.

Direct access is available at: </ecards/ecards~default.aspx>.

March 23, 2020

Homemade Surgical and Procedure Masks

Evangelical Community Hospital has been humbled by the willingness of the community to support the work being done by medical staff. At this point in time the Hospital's supplies are good and have not reached the point where homemade masks are needed to replace National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) approved surgical and procedure masks.

The Hospital's supply, while not indefinite, is sufficient enough to continue using the certified masks designed specifically to prevent the spread of airborne communicable diseases.

If the situation changes, that would be clearly communicated along with the types of materials and method of construction that would allow their use.

Emergency Department Visitors

Visitors in the Emergency Department (limit one per patient and not be showing signs of illness) must remain in the room with the patient at all times and not wander in the department, waiting room, or facility. Visitors who leave the room for any reason, besides to use the restroom, may be asked to leave the facility.

March 22, 2020

Donations

Evangelical Community Hospital has received numerous offers from employees, community members, and businesses to generously donate funds, supplies, food, and services to support it during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Anyone wishing to donate funds to support the Hospital should be directed to mail a check to Evangelical Community Hospital, Attention: Development, 1 Hospital Drive, Lewisburg, PA 17837 or complete the online donation form at [/support-evangelical/donation~form.aspx](#).

Anyone wishing to donate new or unused supplies, food items, or services, should contact Donna Schuck, Associate Vice President of Development, at 570-522-2596 or email donna.schuck@evanhospital.com.

The Hospital may not be able to utilize or accept all goods and services people are interested in donating, please know the Hospital leadership appreciates the outpouring of support from employees, community members, and area businesses.

Here is a list of current supply needs:

Procedure masks; surgical masks; series N-95 half-face respirators (model 3M 1860); NIOSH-approved, N-95 or greater respirators; NIOSH-approved, N-95 or greater

respirator filters (model 3M 6000); half-face respirators (model 3M 6000); powered air-purifying respirators (model 3M TR-600, complete unit or components); re-useable goggles and glasses; disposable plastic face shields; re-useable/cleanable face shields; low allergy disposable gloves (sizes small or medium); disposable impervious gowns; disposable coveralls; storage bags (galloon Ziploc and brown paper); hand sanitizer (70% alcohol or better); Coronavirus approved sanitizing wipes; disposable nasal cannulas; disposable oxygen masks with tubing; and stethoscopes.

Healthcare providers with available swabs are asked to contact Donna Schuck, Associate Vice President of Development, at 570-522-2596 or email donna.schuck@evanhospital.com for specifics on those needed items.

This list may change over the course of the COVID-19 response. An up-to-date list of needed items will be maintained on the Hospital's coronavirus page ([/virus](#)).

Family Medicine of Evangelical site closures

Family Medicine of Evangelical offices in Northumberland and Middleburg are now closed to visits.

Patients seeking Lab services can utilize the Family Medicine of Evangelical offices in Milton, Selinsgrove, and Mifflinburg; the Hospital; or at West Branch Medical Center, along Route 15 in Lewisburg.

Patients of all primary and specialty care offices who have questions or are seeking an appointment are reminded to call the office. All office phones are being staffed during normal business hours.

March 20, 2020:

Physician and Specialty Offices Condensing

In an effort to continue caring for patients, mitigate unnecessary social contact, and conserve resources, the Evangelical Medical Services Organization (EMSO) has started the process of condensing outpatient offices.

For simplicity, the phones at all primary and specialty care offices will be staffed Monday through Friday during normal business hours. Patients with questions or seeking appointments should call their provider's office as they normally would. The individual in the office will then work to answer the patient's need.

Providers will be seeing patients with acute needs, patients managing chronic conditions, and pregnant women. Most well visits have been suspended by Gov. Tom Wolf's order to close non-life-saving businesses.

Rehabilitation Services

Rehabilitation Services will begin to condense services but will continue to meet acute needs for patients. Patients with emergent rehabilitation needs should call 1-877-541-1417.

Physical therapy services will continue for six weeks for post-op surgery patients, unless

function allows the patient to stop sooner. All discharged patients will receive home therapy instructions to continue rehabilitation after six weeks.

Vestibular Services, Lymphedema Therapy, and Speech Therapy will treat acute needs only.

The following Physical Therapy offices closed as of 5 pm, Friday, March 20, 2020: Mt. Pleasant Mills; Plaza 15, Lewisburg; Meadow Green, Mifflinburg; Selinsgrove, Route 522. All other locations will operate on limited hours based on acute patient needs.

Sleep Disorders Center Closing

The Sleep Center of Evangelical closed at noon on Friday, March 20, 2020.

Pulmonary Function Testing

Effective immediately, pulmonary function testing is discontinued.

Selinsgrove Imaging Center

Effective 5 pm, March 20, 2020, Selinsgrove Imaging Center is closed. All appointments have been moved to the Hospital.

Tip of the Day - Reminder to Keep Devices Clean

Remember to clean phones used at home as part of the regular prevention process of coronavirus. Landline phones should be wiped down before and after each use, paying particular attention to the mouthpiece.

With regard to personal devices like phones and tablets, gently wipe with 70% isopropyl alcohol wipes or Clorox Disinfecting Wipes. Clean all surfaces and avoiding getting moisture in any openings. Do not submerge the devices into any cleaning agents and do not use bleach.

March 20, 2020:

Alternate Testing Site

The alternate testing site located in Plaza 15 behind McCann School of Business will remain open over the weekend. The site will be open from 7 am to 7 pm daily. Those hours will be re-evaluated next week. Patients are asked to have an order from their primary care provider and a photo ID when they arrive.

Emergency Department Visitation

One visitor will be permitted with each ED patient while they remain in the department. Limited exceptions will be made for family of patients who are nearing the end of life, and parents of a patient under the age of 18.

All patients and visitors will be screened for respiratory illness when they arrive at the ED. Patients with symptoms of respiratory illness will be separated from other patients.

Visitors with symptoms of respiratory illness will be asked to wait in their vehicles.

Cashier's Office Closed

With visitors no longer permitted in the facility and limited on-site staffing, the Cashier's Office closed at noon Thursday, March 19, 2020. Patients are asked to call the customer service line at 570-768-3000 to pay bills or have their questions answered.

Pre-Admission Care Moved to EASC

As the organization suspends elective surgeries and procedures, remaining Pre-Admission Care appointments have been moved to the Evangelical Ambulatory Surgical Center.

Gift Shop Closing

The Hospital Gift Shop will close indefinitely at 2 pm today, March 20, 2020. An announcement will be made prior to its re-opening.

Credit Union

For the safety of their staff, our staff, and the community in general, Member's Choice Financial Credit Union is closing the lobbies in its offices today. The branch near the Rooke Pavilion will close at the end of the business day while other branches will close at noon. The ATM in the Hospital will remain open. The credit union's drive-thru services will remain open. In addition, online and app-based banking services remain active. If an appointment with a bank representative is needed, please call 1-800-834-0082.

March 18, 2020:**Facility Access**

Effective at 6:30 am Thursday, March 19, 2020, no visitors will be permitted to enter the facility. Limited exceptions will be made for the family of patients who are nearing the end of life, partners and immediate family of women giving birth (1 only), and parents of a patient under the age of 18. No children under the age of 18 will be permitted in the facility as visitors.

Patients arriving for outpatient services, including Imaging or Lab work, will be permitted one adult to accompany them to their procedure. That adult will be screened in accordance with CDC guidelines.

Entrances to the Professional Office Building (POB) will also be locked at 6:30 am Thursday, March 19, 2020. Patients seeking services from practices located in the POB will be directed to the Donehower-Eisenhower Pavilion.

Emergency Department Screening

Beginning Thursday morning, March 19, 2020, the Hospital will be screening patients outside the entrance to the Emergency Department. The goal will be to process potential COVID-19 patients separately from other patients seeking emergency care

and ensure patients seeking other services are utilizing the Donehower-Eisenhower Pavilion.

Presumptive vs. Confirmed Positive

The test kits currently in use by many hospitals, but not Evangelical, are designed to provide a quick screening of patients. Someone who tests positive through one of the kits is considered to “presumptive positive” until a commercial or government lab can confirm the diagnosis. Evangelical is collecting samples and sending them directly to the commercial lab for confirmation. If someone tests positive at Evangelical, they will be considered “confirmed positive.”

March 18, 2020:

The COVID-19 situation continues to evolve and the Hospital is responding with measures of protection for staff and patients.

Elective Surgeries and Procedures

Beginning Thursday, March 19, 2020, Evangelical will start to postpone elective, non-emergent surgeries and procedures. Impacted patients will be contacted directly. After Friday, March 20, 2020, the operating rooms will only be conducting non-elective, emergency surgeries and procedures.

Laboratory, Imaging, and Outpatients

At this time, all laboratory specimen collection and testing along with Imaging appointments will continue as scheduled.

Continue to watch Facebook or visit this page for the latest updates.

March 16, 2020:

All Community Health and Wellness programs through the end of March are cancelled.

March 16, 2020:

Miller Center

The Miller Center will be closing Wednesday, March 18, 2020, until further notice.

March 13, 2020:

In a commitment to the highest level of safety possible for area residents and staff, the Hospital is announcing several cancellations of upcoming events. Any rescheduling of events will be publicized as they become known.

The following events have been canceled at this time:

Alcoholics Anonymous—March 15, March 22, and March 29, 2020, Evangelical Community Hospital

Empty Arms—March 16, 2020, Evangelical Community Hospital

Better Breathers—March 17, 2020, Evangelical Community Hospital

Every Baby Needs A Lap Top—March 19, 2020, Evangelical Community Health and Wellness

AARP Smart Driver—March 19 and 20, 2020, Evangelical Community Health and Wellness

Children's Health Fair—March 21, 2020, The Miller Center

AARP Smart Driver—March 26 and 27, 2020, West End Library

Hospital Remembrance Service—March 29, 2020, Faith Lutheran Church

Life After Loss—April 16-May 21, 2020, Hospice of Evangelical

Senior Strong – Scam Prevention—April 14, 2020, Evangelical Community Health and Wellness

Hospice of Evangelical Remembrance Service—April 19, 2020, St. John's United Church of Christ

Hello Hospital—Fridays in April and May 2020, Evangelical Community Hospital

The Charles P. Fasano, DO Memorial Lecture—May 7, 2020, Bucknell University