TODAY'S COVID-19 INFORMATION

Thursday, January 6, 2022

NEW: Incident Command Status Update

REMINDER: Denver Health Masking Policy for Staff, Patients and Visitors

REMINDER: Visitor Policy Status Update

REMINDER: Employee Testing and Return to Work

REMINDER: Employee COVID-19 Isolation Protocol
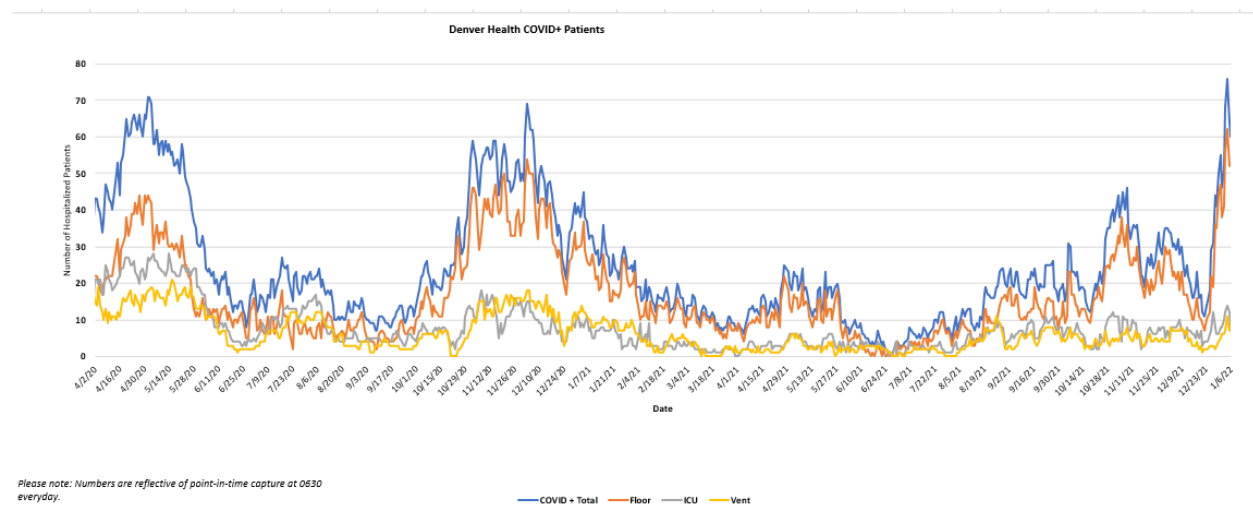
REMINDER: LOA and HFWA

REMINDER: Patient Isolation Protocol for Inpatients with COVID-19 Infection

REMINDER: Denver Health PPE Inventory Update

REMINDER: COVID-19 Travel Testing Available

What You Need to Know

NEW: Epidemiology Data and Notes

Please note: Numbers are reflective of point-in-time capture at 0630 everyday.

As of 6:30 AM Denver Health has 60 COVID-19 Patients, 52 are on the Floor, 8 in the ICU, 8 on a ventilator.

NEW: Incident Command Status Update

On Friday, January 7, Denver Health leadership will formally deactivate the Hospital Incident Command Structure (HICS) related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The long-term nature of this pandemic, especially as it transitions to an endemic disease, is not best served through this structure designed for shorter term crisis.

While the full structure of HICS will not be intact, we want to assure staff that we remain ready and engaged to support ongoing and new COVID-19 constraints and the high volumes currently being experienced at Denver Health.

A taskforce of subject matter experts and key clinical decision makers will continue to meet at least 3x/week to coordinate clinical protocols, testing, capacity, and infection prevention response.

As such you will continue to see COVID-19 communication updates on a regular basis.

Questions related to COVID-19 response should be directed through normal operations (eg infection prevention, unit managers, etc) who address these concerns on a daily basis.

We will focus on response issues at the next few leadership updates to ensure your needs are being met.

REMINDER: Denver Health Masking Policy for Staff, Patients and Visitors

Staff must <u>wear a mask at all times,</u> except when eating and drinking, or when in a room alone. To view our masking policy [click here.](#)

Patients <u>must wear a mask whenever awake in a room with another individual.</u> This includes:

- When in a shared room
- When in open milieus such as the Oasis or Psychiatry units
- When staff enters a room
- When visitors enter a room

Visitors <u>must wear a mask at all times</u> indoor on the Denver Health campus except when eating and drinking. Masks must be work when visitors are in a closed room with a patient.

Please remember that we all play an important role in communicating directly with our co-workers, patients, and visitors about masking requirements.

REMINDER: Visitor Policy Status Update

Visitors of all types play an active and essential role in a patient's health care journey and across the continuum of care. Throughout the pandemic, Denver Health has remained committed to maintaining the presence of visitors in all health care settings to support the delivery of high-quality, patient-centric care, while ensuring the safest environment for staff, patients, and the community.

Late last year Denver Health adopted tier-based visitor guidelines to manage COVID-19 cases, patient volumes and community needs. **Currently, we are in Tier 2**, but we are closely monitoring the impact of the current surge and the possibility of implementing additional visitor restrictions.

To view the full policy please click here.

REMINDER: Employee Testing and Return to Work

If you test **within** the Denver Health System:

The standard language in the Redcap questionnaire states that the employee's results will be shared with the employee and with the employee's manager. In completing the Redcap questionnaire, each employee provides consent for notice to be provided to the employee's manager. The employee is asked to list their manager as a courtesy, however, if no manager is listed per the standard Redcap language, the RedCap administrators will look up the manager on behalf of the employee and then share the result with that manager. The results should not be shared beyond that.

If you test **outside** the Denver Health System:

If you test positive outside the system, you are asked to follow up with the RedCap survey to let us know. After you have done so, Denver Health sends a follow up email to the employee and their manager (as consented in the RedCap) instructing them to follow up with their manager and provide documentation on their positive test.

**COVID-19 test results taken in connection with a return to work (e.g. Red Cap) are not protected health information within the meaning of HIPAA – those are distinct from medical information and treatment an employee may obtain in the course of seeking medical treatment, which is subject to HIPAA.

REMINDER: LOA and HFWA

Health Families and Workplaces Act (HFWA) Federal Public Health Emergency Paid Leave

About the Public Health Emergency (PHE) Order:

- Under the PHE order, employers (DHHA) are required to provide paid time off to Denver Health employees for COVID related reasons.

- The number of hours of paid time off depends on your Full Time (FTE) status. **The maximum number of PTO hours granted for calendar year 2022 is 80 hours for 1 FTE.**

- Employees who have missed work due to a COVID related reason can submit this application and utilize the paid time off **up to 30 days after the expiration of PHE**.

- **Submit your application** to the Leave of Absence office. Email LOAFMLProcess@dhha.org or call 303-602-7007 for more information.

REMINDER: Employee COVID-19 Isolation Protocol

Denver Health employee return to work criteria after COVID-19 infection

	Symptomatic	Asymptomatic (no symptoms)
Vaccinated and/or boosted	**5 days[a]**	**5 days**
Unvaccinated	**7 days[a]**	**7 days**
Immunocompromised	**20 days[a]**	**7+ days with a negative home antigen test**

[a] Employee must <u>also</u> have no fever for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication (acetaminophen [Tylenol] or ibuprofen [Motrin, Advil, etc]). They must also either have no symptoms or improvement in symptoms.

For questions regarding employee health please contact Centers for Occupation Health (COSH). Phone: 303-436-7155   Fax: 303-436-5113 or via E-mail: COSHReferrals@dhha.org

Employee Exposures:

If an employee has a significant exposure to COVID in any venue, they do <u>not</u> need to remain home from work and they do <u>not</u> need to be tested for COVID. Please <u>continue to work unless you develop symptoms</u>. This pertains to all staff who are boosted, vaccinated with a primary series, and unvaccinated.

REMINDER: Patient Isolation Protocol for Inpatients with COVID-19 Infection

In concordance with emerging literature and CDC guidance, Denver Health will shorten the duration of isolation for select hospitalized patients with COVID-19.

Please click here to see the flowchart for specific details.

Epic support for the reduced duration of isolation will be coming in the subsequent days. For now, Infection Prevention will manually review charts and assist with the removal of isolation. If you think that your patient qualifies for early removal of precautions and would like to remove precautions, please call 2BUGS or email infectionprevention@dhha.org.

The isolation requirements will be incorporated into an upcoming revision of the Transmission-Based Precautions policy. For now, you can access these updated guidelines.

REMINDER: Denver Health PPE Inventory Status Update

Since March of 2020, our incredible staff in Supply Chain have worked diligently to keep our staff and community members safe by equipping Denver Health with appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). For an update on our supply please click the links below.

Current PPE data can be located here.

REMINDER: COVID-19 Travel Testing Available

COVID-19 PCR testing is now available at the Immunization and Travel Clinic at 660 Bannock Street, Outpatient Medical Center, 2nd floor, Public Health Institute at Denver Health.

Testing details are below:

- Cash pay price of $125 (no insurance billing)
- For travel/event documentation
- **For asymptomatic, non-exposed patients only (This service is not available to patients with symptoms or those with exposure to a COVID-19 patient.)**
- **NEW: Now offered five days a week - Monday through Friday**
- Requires a MyChart account
- Turnaround time of 24-48 hours max
- Call 303-602-3520 to schedule an appointment

** Symptomatic staff should either go through RedCap or their PCP if this is not a realistic option.

Denver Health COVID-19 Resources:

Quarantine Instructions for Vaccine-exempt Employees

Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccine FAQs for Staff

Denver Health Staff Masking Policy FAQ

Denver Health Pediatric Vaccination One-Pager

Denver Health Pediatric YouTube Video