

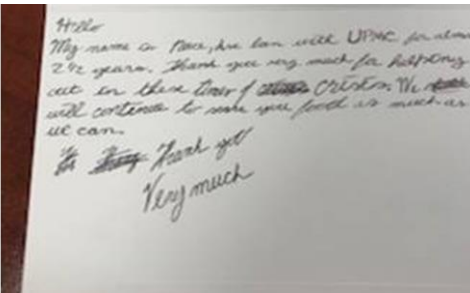


Thankful for Our Health Care Heroes

You may not wear a cape to work, but our frontline staff in every hospital, clinic, and testing center are true heroes. If you haven't received a message of thanks posted on Yammer, hung outside your unit, or tucked inside your lunch bag yet today — thank you for your dedicated, compassionate care. You are the reason we are [#UPMCStrong](#).

-  **Maley, Jennifer**
Hanging outside one of our nursing units ❤️❤️
-  **Davis, Leslie C**
A great visit to the Mercy team and its Heroes. Looking toward the future. The new Vision and Rehabilitation Tower. Go Mercy!!!!



This very touching note was left at the Wolf Center Command Center yesterday along with bagged lunches provided by UPMC Catering. The Command Center team appreciated this kind and generous gesture.

Visitation Restriction Changes Affecting Emergency Departments

Beginning **Friday, March 27**, Emergency Department (ED) visitation will restrict all visitors unless the visitor is essential for the patient's assistance and care. Any special-approved visitor must have no COVID-19 symptoms, have a mask and will not be permitted to move throughout the ED or enter the main hospital.

[Print and post updated patient-facing signage](#) to reflect our new ED visitation guidelines.

Review our [updated visitation restrictions](#) and up-to-date [Clinical Screen at Hospital Entrances Guidelines](#). Changes affecting the process for employees who screen "positive" upon entry to the facility are included in updated guidelines.

Masks provided to employees at facility entry are optional for employees to wear during their shift, with the exception of employees who must wear proper PPE caring for patients in isolation. Additional clarifications will be communicated in a frequently asked questions (FAQs) document that will be shared tomorrow.

Print and Carry This Essential Employees Letter

All UPMC employees are considered essential and life-sustaining. When commuting to and from work, UPMC employees must carry their UPMC badge and the [Essential Employees Letter](#) to comply with stay-at-home guidelines put in place by the Maryland, New York, and Pennsylvania governments.

Updates of Essential Services Guidelines

[Transport guidelines](#) and the [Environmental Services, Waste Management, and Linen Action Plan](#) are current and posted and encompass inpatient, emergency department, outpatient, testing, and ancillary areas. Additional [essential services protocols](#) are on Infonet.

COVID-19 Therapeutics Committee Update

COVID-19 presents many challenges, including the lack of evidence about effective treatments and creates demand for ancillary therapies that may be in short supply. A UPMC System COVID-19 Therapeutics Committee with representation from Infectious Disease, Infection Control, Critical Care, Hospital Medicine, Emergency Medicine, and Pharmacy professionals across UPMC now exists. This team reviews available literature regarding the safety and efficacy of prospective treatment regimens for COVID-19 patients.

The COVID-19 Therapeutics Committee will establish pharmacological guidelines and implement restrictions of pharmacologic agents as needed. We will share all new information through the committee and the Pharmacy Service Center. Elevate any questions for the committee through covid19therapeutics@upmc.edu or to [Dr. Mark Schmidhofer](#).

EpicCare Changes Reduce Testing Wait Times for Health Care Workers

Yesterday's EpicCare article included incorrect contact information. We apologize for the error, which is now corrected below.

To aid local command centers and providers throughout UPMC, two questions have been added to the referral order for SARS-Cov-2 (COVID-19 virus) testing in EpicCare:

1. Is the patient a health care worker?
2. Which collection center will the person be scheduled in for testing?

These questions will route the testing to the most efficient location. Collection of this data helps the Wolff Center track cases by location and keep an eye out for trends or clusters.

If you have any questions, please submit an EpicCare Support ticket. Tickets are routed to the appropriate team to expedite resolution.



COVID-19 Leadership Update March 26, 2020

Critical Care Management Expert to Lead *JAMA* Q&A

How can hospitals fairly allocate ventilators and beds in the intensive care unit during the COVID-19 pandemic?

Douglas White, MD, UPMC Endowed Chair for Ethics in Critical Care Medicine, and an internationally recognized expert in medical ethics, developed a policy framework that is being adopted by UPMC and across the country. The policy is part of the Hospital Association of Pennsylvania as the official guidance for all Pennsylvania hospitals. Hospital and clinical leaders should watch the [live Q&A](#) with Dr. White, hosted by the *Journal of the American Medical Association* tomorrow, **Friday, March 27**, at 1 p.m.