**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS 4-3-2020**

**Q: Why will you not release the place of employment of the person who tested positive?**

*A: We will only release the place of employment if the facility does not agree to inform their employees, customers, patient, etc. Some places are very small so releasing the place of employment would allow the public to know who the patient is and that would be violating their privacy.*

**Q: What do I do if I was at the same place and time as a positive Novel Coronavirus patient?**

*A: You should monitor yourself for symptoms like fever, cough, sore throat or shortness of breath. If you start experiencing any of these symptoms contact your healthcare provider.*

**Q: Why do some test results come back in a couple days but others take a couple weeks?**

 *A: The turnaround time for results depends on where the sample was sent. Some private labs are taking 15 days to release results. The Eli Lilly/Indiana State Department of Health lab can release results within 3 days. The Eli Lilly/ISDH lab will only accept tests that meet their criteria. Private labs can accept all Novel Coronavirus tests that are ordered by a doctor, but testing supplies are in short supply.*

**Q: If a patient hasn’t been in the public or left their house how did they get Novel Coronavirus?**

*A: If the patient has not traveled or been in public, it is assumed that someone who was not showing symptoms or a “carrier” of the virus exposed them.*

**Q: How do you know where a patient has been?**

*A: During our investigation we have to ask the patients multiple questions about their symptoms and recent activity. We ask where they have been 48 hours before and 14 days after their symptoms began. We use that information to inform the public in our press releases of their whereabouts so the public can know of possible exposure.*

**Q: Can we just test everyone to see who has the virus?**

*A: The best plan in an ideal scenario would be to test everyone, conduct contact tracing to learn the originated source and stop the spread. However, that would require thousands of tests and those resources are not available right now.*

**Q: What is the hospital’s plan for the ‘surge’ of Novel Coronavirus?**

*A: Scott Memorial Health is a 25-bed critical access community hospital. Hospitals across the country are adding beds to meet the needs of their communities and our current licensed bed counts may not be an accurate picture of what our response would be in an emergency scenario. Additionally, the State of Indiana has issued waivers to hospitals during this time to expand allotted bed capacity if needed.*

*As state officials have reported, we are expecting for the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases to increase in the next two weeks. As a result we are currently working to expand our emergency preparedness to include this potential surge of patients. This includes partnering closely with our sister hospital Clark Memorial Hospital as well as other hospitals in the region including: Ascension St. Vincent Salem, Baptist Health Floyd, Columbus Regional, Harrison County Hospital, King's Daughters' Health, and Schneck Medical Center. Additionally, we are working to ready and repurpose unused areas of the hospital.*

**Q: How is the hospital addressing the shortage of personal perspective equipment (PPE)?**

*A: Employees at Scott Memorial Health began working under a "universal mask protocol" on Monday. Universal mask protocol will tax our supply of PPE significantly; however, we think this is the safest way that we can keep employees and patients safe as the number of cases in Southern Indiana continue to rise.*

*We continue to accept donations of unused medical and protective supplies and equipment. This move is part of Scott Memorial Health’s ongoing efforts to address the COVID-19 pandemic and prepare for increased needs of personal protective equipment (PPE), which healthcare providers across the nation are experiencing.*

*The hospital can accept the following unused medical and protective supplies and equipment:*

* *Disposable face masks including surgical masks and ear loop masks*
* *Respirator masks rated N95 or higher*
* *Face shields and goggles designed to protect eyes*
* *Disposable gowns such as medical/dental gowns as well as impervious or isolation gowns*
* *Disposable non-latex gloves*
* *Disposable surgical caps*
* *Disposable foot covers*
* *Antimicrobial wipes*
* *Hand sanitizer*

*Thank you to those who have already donated generously to this effort, including: Scottsburg High School, Samtec and Walmart. Those with supplies and equipment to donate may contact Stephen Carey at 812.820.7640 to arrange delivery.*

*\* Questions about Scott Memorial Health Hospital were answered by a spokesperson from SMH.*