



COVID-19 STATUS, RECOVERY & READINESS UPDATE

Today's HRO Tip: Patient Identification

Patients and family's trust in our ability to care for them is impacted when safety practices are not employed by all team members. Every member of the team can improve the health care experience for our patients by ensuring patient identification practices are a habit and utilized 100% of the time. Two patients were transported back to the unit with the incorrect chart and returned to the wrong room. Skipping over appropriate patient identification may not physically harm a patient – although it is certainly a possibility – but sacrificing a trusting relationship is harmful. Name, date of birth and medical record number. Every time.

The following is an update on Hackensack Meridian Health's COVID-19 status, recovery and readiness efforts as of **October 22, 2020**. COVID-19 updates are released on Mondays and Thursdays.

Status

The following is a breakdown of the number of COVID-19 inpatient positive and those waiting for test results across our network as of October 22, 2020.

Hospital & Long Term Care	Current Inpatient Positive	Total Inpatients Awaiting Test Results
Hackensack University Medical Center	35	0
Jersey Shore University Medical Center	18	4
JFK Medical Center	19	2
Ocean Medical Center	18	1
Riverview Medical Center	2	2
Palisades Medical Center	8	0
Raritan Bay Medical Center – Perth Amboy	5	1
Raritan Bay Medical Center – Old Bridge	6	1
Southern Ocean Medical Center	6	0
Bayshore Medical Center	9	2
Mountainside Medical Center	8	4
Pascack Valley Medical Center	13	2
Carrier Clinic	1	0
HMH Long-term Care Facilities	1	0
Total Hospital & Long Term Care	149	19
Ambulatory Practices	Current Positive	Total Patients Tested
HMH Medical Group Practices	670	8,672
HMH Urgent Care Centers	2,923	42,117
Total Ambulatory Practices	3,593	50,789



Homecare	Current Positive	Total Patients Awaiting Test Results
HMH Homecare	50	0

Tuesday’s Situational Analysis (10/20):

On Tuesday, COVID-19 volumes at our hospitals **increased 2.7% or 4 patients**, leaving us with **153** COVID-19 patients in our hospitals. When long-term care facilities are included, our COVID-19 patient volume also increased by **2.7%**, leaving us with to **154** patients.

Yesterday’s Situational Analysis (10/21):

Yesterday, COVID-19 volumes at our hospitals **increased 2.6% or 4 patients**, leaving us with **157** COVID-19 patients in our hospitals. When long-term care facilities are included, our COVID-19 patient volume increased by **3.2%**, leaving us with to **159** patients.

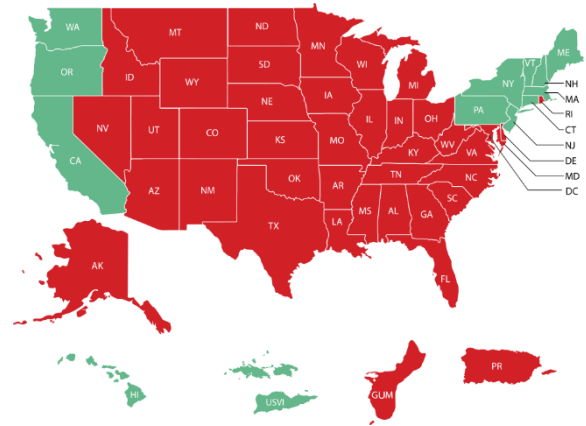
Today’s Situational Analysis (10/22):

Since yesterday, COVID-19 volumes at our hospitals **increased 5.7 % or 9 patients**, leaving us with **166** COVID-19 patients in our hospitals. When long-term care facilities are included, our COVID-19 patient volume also increased by **5.7%**, leaving us with to **168** patients.

Update: Travel Advisory

There are now **39 states and U.S. jurisdictions** on New Jersey’s travel advisory list, where out of state travelers should quarantine for 14 days upon arriving to New Jersey. Since last week, Arizona and Maryland were added. No states or territories were removed. See below for the complete list:

- | | | |
|----------|----------------|----------------|
| Alabama | Kentucky | Ohio |
| Alaska | Louisiana | Oklahoma |
| Arizona | Maryland | Puerto Rico |
| Arkansas | Michigan | Rhode Island |
| Colorado | Minnesota | South Carolina |
| Florida | Mississippi | South Dakota |
| Georgia | Missouri | Tennessee |
| Guam | Montana | Texas |
| Iowa | Nebraska | Utah |
| Illinois | Nevada | Virginia |
| Idaho | New Mexico | West Virginia |
| Indiana | North Carolina | Wisconsin |
| Kansas | North Dakota | Wyoming |



Graphic Source: Connecticut’s Official State Website

Neighboring states Connecticut, Pennsylvania and Delaware now meet the criteria for New Jersey’s travel advisory. Due to the interconnected nature of the region, New Jersey has decided a 14-day quarantine is not reasonable in all instances. However, the state is discouraging non-essential travel to and from these states. Meanwhile, New York and Connecticut are also discouraging non-essential travel to and from New Jersey, but are not mandating that travelers quarantine due to the interconnected nature of the region. A joint statement from the Governors’ offices of New Jersey, New York and Connecticut regarding the increased risk of COVID-19 can be found [here](#).



Reminder: HMH Travel Policy

As COVID-19 cases rise across the country, please remember that HMH has suspended business travel for team members. Additionally, due to the high rate of spread of COVID-19 in the states and territories on New Jersey’s travel advisory list, HMH discourages travel to these areas. If you choose to travel internationally or to any of the places listed above, you must follow these steps.

Patient Care Locations

Team members who work in patient care sites (hospitals, ambulatory sites, home care, etc.) who choose to travel internationally or to any of the designated states, are required to receive a PCR test and complete a telephonic assessment with Occupational Health before or on their first day scheduled back to work.

- Schedule your PCR test by calling the Occupational Health COVID-19 Hotline at 732-897-3800.*
 - To minimize wait times, team members are strongly encouraged to schedule their test before traveling.
 - The PCR testing will be done at an HMH hospital.
 - When scheduling your test, alert your scheduler if you are symptomatic. If symptomatic, your testing location may change.
- Regardless of your test date, team members who travel internationally or to a designated state must call the Occupational Health COVID-19 Hotline at 732-897-3800 for a telephonic assessment on or before their return to work date.
- If asymptomatic, team members may report to work while test results are pending. If symptomatic, the Occupational Health Team will advise of next steps.

Long-Term Care Locations

Long term care team members should continue to follow the testing instructions provided by their administrator or leader, which includes regular PCR testing.

Non-Patient Care Locations

Team members who work in network services/non-patient care sites, or working from home and travel internationally or to one of the designated states are required to:

- Quarantine at home for 14 days.* These team members are not allowed to report to any HMH facility until they have completed their 14 day quarantine. Team members are to work exclusively from home during their quarantine.

**If a team member needs to enter an HMH facility during their 14 day quarantine, they must receive a PCR test and telephonic assessment from Occupational Health before doing so. To schedule a PCR test and receive an assessment, please see the Patient Care Locations instructions.*

Update: Weekly Activity Level Report

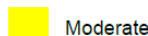
The New Jersey Department of Health publishes weekly COVID-19 Activity Level Reports that track COVID status throughout the state. [Click here to see the latest report.](#) Please note, all levels remain the same since last week.



Region ²	Current Activity Level
Northwest	MODERATE
Northeast	MODERATE
Central West	MODERATE
Central East	MODERATE
Southwest	MODERATE
Southeast	MODERATE
STATEWIDE	MODERATE



Low



Moderate



High



Very High



Recovery

Update: Patient Volume

The HMMH team continues to rebuild its patient volumes following the height of the pandemic. Here's a look at how our hospitals are doing:

- Our admissions remain steady at **95%** across the network, compared to our pre-COVID volume.
- Our elective surgeries and invasive procedures are at **94%**, compared to our pre-COVID volume.
- Our outpatient volume average for MRIs, chemotherapy, CT scans and PET scans is at **86%** compared to our pre-COVID average.
- Our Emergency Department volume is at **72%**, compared to our pre-COVID volume.

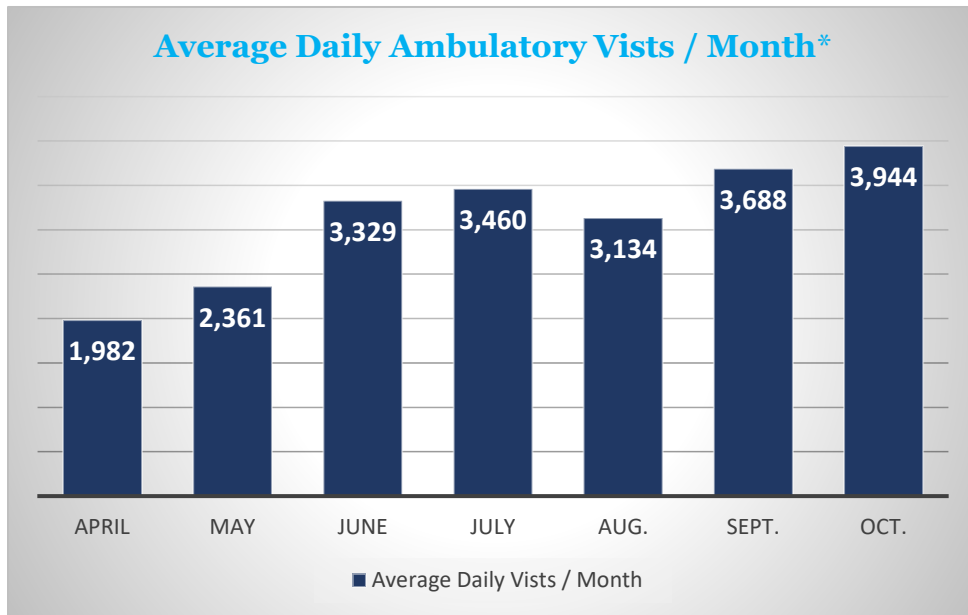


Habib Khan, M.D., vascular surgeon at Bayshore Medical Center, is one of the many physicians who helps support our recovery efforts.

All volumes remain flat since last week.

Here's a look at how our ambulatory services* are doing:

- Trends in ambulatory volume remains positive and on an upward trajectory. Let's take a look at a snapshot of the past few months:



**This data is reflective of Epic offices only. October data is of 10/21/20.*



New: Team Member Navigation and Support Line Launches

Over the last several months, the entire HMH team has faced unprecedented challenges. Some team members may be feeling stressed, overwhelmed, anxious or depressed. We want them to know that they are not alone, and that there are resources available to help them get the support and help they need. To that end, **we have recently launched the Team Member Support and Navigation Line, which can be accessed 24/7 by calling 844-642-2665.** Staffed by Behavioral Health professionals from across



Readiness

the network, the line is available to assist a team member in a moment of crisis, as well as to help them navigate the other well-being resources available from HMH and our partners.

Reminder: Attend Next Week's Preparedness Webinar

Join this webinar to hear how HMH is responding to team member concerns and the specific steps it is taking to enhance its COVID 2.0 preparations. Audrey Murphy, Esq., MSN, RN, executive vice president and chief legal officer of operations and Deeba Siddiqui, RN, DNP, CPPS, CPHQ, vice-president of clinical risk and loss prevention and enterprise risk management, will host this webinar, where you'll hear about the following:

- **Personal Protective Equipment:** Michael Goolsby, vice presidents of materials management & application
- **Team Member Redeployment:** Robert Garry, MA – senior vice president of strategic talent management and Liz Paskas, MBA, MSN, RN, NE-BC, CPXP – vice president of human experience design & innovation
- **Well-Being:** Amy Frieman, M.D., MBA, FAAHPM – vice president and chief wellness officer
- **Clinical Preparations & Fit Testing:** Daniel Varga, M.D., chief physician executive

Be sure to mark your calendar for:

- **When:** Thursday, October 29 from 9 a.m. – 10 a.m.
- **Where:** The webinar will be held on Zoom. Stay tuned to your COVID-19 Updates for the link.

All team members can submit questions in advance to culture@hmn.org.



In advance of the webinar, [check out the COVID 2.0 Playbook](#) and all the work that's been done to outline our preparedness plan. **Please note, you must be logged in to the HMH network either at an HMH facility or through Citrix/VMWare to access the document. It is for internal use only.*

Reminder: October 31 Deadline for Mandatory Respiratory Protection Education Training

As you know, Hackensack Meridian Health continues to prepare for a second wave of COVID-19. Out of an abundance of caution and to further ensure our team members' preparedness and safety, HMH is issuing a Respiratory Protection Education training to all team members. You should have received an automated email from MyLearning@hackensackmeridian.org alerting you to this new training. It can be accessed by logging in to MySuccess Learning. To access MySuccess Learning, visit myway.HMHn.org. **Please be sure to complete this mandatory training by October 31, 2020.** This comprehensive Respiratory Protection Education will explain what HMH's Respiratory Protection Program (RPP) is, when this type of training is required and more. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.



New: HMH CEO Bob Garrett, Others Discuss COVID – and the Future

The panelists for the latest installment of the “COVID Ethics Series” co-run by the Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine and Seton Hall University, included Hackensack Meridian Health CEO Robert C. Garrett, FACHE, and the president of Seton Hall University, Joseph Nyre, PhD. Also contributing were Charles Grantham, MBA, the director of the Center for Sports Management at Seton Hall, and Molly Patterson, Ph.D., the chair of political science at Aquinas College.

On Tuesday, October 20, the panelists for “Taking Seriously the Duty to Plan: The Future of Health, Education, Sports, and Politics After COVID” discussed health care, education, sports – and the quick changes in the political and social environment caused by the pandemic. The consensus: the pandemic has accelerated changes which were already starting before the identification of a novel coronavirus in China late last year. [Click here to view the recording.](#)

Taking Seriously the Duty to Plan:

The Future of Health, Education, Sports, and Politics After COVID

An Interprofessional Discussion Moderated by Dr. Bryan Pilkington

 Robert C. Garrett, FACHE <small>Chief Executive Officer Hackensack Meridian Health</small>	 Joseph E. Nyre, PhD <small>President Seton Hall University</small>	 Charles Grantham, MBA <small>Director, Sport Management Seton Hall University</small>	 Molly Patterson, PhD <small>Chair, Political Science Aquinas College</small>
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The “COVID Ethics Series,” led by Prof. Bryan Pilkington of the Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine as well as Seton Hall, has been held since the spring. The next installment is Oct. 29, from 4 to 5 p.m., entitled: “Voting for Health: The Entwined Paths of Medicine and Politics.” [Click here to register.](#)