



Caribou Memorial Hospital

Updated 4/1/2020

COVID-19

COVID-19 is a novel strain of the coronavirus. As of March 23, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) classifies the risk in Idaho as “low”. However, the CDC has directed us to prepare for possible disruptions to everyday life. Caribou Memorial Hospital is our community health center, and as such, we are doing all we can to be at the forefront of response and preparedness.

An internal committee has been established to implement COVID-19 protocols within the facility. These individuals will be meeting daily to assess and provide updates. On March 12, 2020, CMH implemented a “controlled entry” system to screen all incoming patients and visitors for symptoms of COVID-19.

- The entire hospital—including the ER—remains fully operational and ready to care for patients.
- All medical offices will remain open.
- From 7:30 am – 6:00 pm, all non-ER visitors and patients must enter at the Main Lobby.
- From 6:00 pm – 7:30 am, all non-ER visitors and patients must enter at the ER.
- All other entry points will be locked 24/7.

All visitors who are cleared will be limited under the following special circumstances and must abide by the following:

- In the Emergency Department, one caregiver per patient will be allowed if needed.
 - No one under the age of 18, unless the parent of the patient.
- In Labor & Delivery, one visitor per patient will be allowed.
 - No one under the age of 18, unless the parent of the newborn.
- For our pediatric/newborn patients, parents/caregivers are allowed.
 - No one under the age of 18, unless the parent of the patient.
- For patients who are critically ill or at end of life, only immediate family will be allowed:
 - Up to two people will be screened for entrance and required to wear a mask while visiting their loved one.
 - Additional family members will not be permitted to wait in the hospital lobby.
- For patients visiting our clinics or outpatient services, please check with screeners before proceeding to your appointment.
- **We ask that any accompanying persons wait in their vehicles. Pediatric patients who require a guardian, patients who require assistance with ambulation, or patients with disabilities who require assistance may be accompanied by a family member after screening.**

Testing Information

Caribou Memorial Hospital is not a testing site for community members concerned about the coronavirus. We can only collect specimens from patients and health care providers who meet the current testing guidelines due to the shortage of tests we can send out. Patients are screened in our Emergency Department for signs and symptoms associated with COVID-19 coronavirus. CMH has an isolation tent that all patients suspected of symptoms will be directed to in order to assure safety for the rest of our hospital. If influenza, strep throat, or

other infectious disease is ruled out, the process will then be to follow state guidelines to determine whether COVID-19 testing is appropriate.

If you have symptoms similar to those related to COVID-19 (coughing, fever, shortness of breath), please call **(208) 909-5136** to speak with one of our nurses before coming to the hospital.

Process for a Positive COVID-19 Case:

We care for infected patients in isolated areas of the hospital. Access to these areas is limited to a small group of staff who only care for patients in that area. The materials used to care for infected patients are isolated and handled using the most current infection-control practices. For the safety of all, our environmental care staff uses evidence-based disinfection procedures and products. We understand the public's high level of concern and are committed to protecting the privacy and safety of our patients and residents.

Our end goal is to address:

- The serious ramifications to patient care if staff are exposed, and thus potentially requiring quarantine.
- The increased risk to already-vulnerable hospitalized residents / patients when they come in contact with a person with respiratory illness (a serious concern throughout flu season).

We have prepared on other fronts, including clinical protocols, nursing education, and ensuring the availability of appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to protect our patients and caregivers. However, we are experiencing the same cleaning supply and PPE shortage that healthcare throughout the nation is experiencing.

We certainly understand that this may be an inconvenience for visitors. It is our hope that our community understands the necessity of these measures and supports our efforts to keep our patients, residents, staff, and community members safe.

Events and Gatherings Currently Postponed

- Community Health Fair/Blood Draws
- CMH Foundation Trivia Night

We would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to the following for offering assistance to CMH: Bayer, ITAFOS, GHD, Cobblestone Inn & Suites, Caribou County school districts, and Caribou County LDS Relief Society groups.