



COVID-19 Update

March 20, 2020

Emergency Department Use of Triage Trailer

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With the continued emergence of COVID-19, Uniontown Hospital is announcing the following changes around our Emergency Department intake process to be able to screen potential patients with COVID-19 before they would enter the facility in an effort to maintain the best safety practices and precautions.

Beginning Monday, for the safety of all of our patients, healthcare providers and our community, we will establish a new screening method for patients presenting at the Emergency Department.

Patients will be preliminarily evaluated in the exterior vestibule of the Emergency Department by clinical staff. Upon screening, patients will be routed to one of three pathways – into the Emergency Department waiting area if they are not presenting symptoms of COVID-19; into the EMA Trailer (Triage Trailer) staged outside the ED if they are presenting with respiratory symptoms associated with COVID-19; or into the ED through a dedicated ambulance bay and to a cohort area where we will receive patients presenting COVID-19 symptoms that are in need of emergent care.

The Triage Trailer is outfitted with diagnostic tools and medical equipment necessary to evaluate and care for the patients that would meet the criteria to be examined there. The Triage Trailer is also outfitted with negative pressure to reduce infection risk for patients and staff, and all staff will utilize the appropriate PPE (Personal Protective Equipment.)

As we work to anticipate possible spikes in ED visits and to avoid creating a line for screening and care in the Triage Trailer, patients will be asked to provide their mobile phone number to hospital staff who will then ask them to return to their vehicle and wait to be called for treatment.

It is incumbent upon us to establish strict protocols and take all precautions as we care for those in need while also working to stem the spread of COVID-19. In times of crisis we are called to rise up and meet exceptional challenges, and, as an organization, we are committed to doing just that. Each of our employees plays a pivotal role, regardless of their specific role at Uniontown Hospital, and we are thankful for them.

Thank you all for your understanding and cooperation as we navigate this crisis.

For media inquiries or more information, please contact Uniontown Hospital Director of Community Relations Joshua Krysak at 724-430-8634 or krysak@utwn.org.