

Dear Community,

In my more than 43 years in health care, I have never witnessed anything like the COVID-19 outbreak that we are experiencing now. This is an unprecedented event, in not only The Bellevue Hospital's history, but around the world. I have watched the TBH family work together to protect our community, as well as each other, and am very proud of their efforts. We have had to make some tough decisions in the last month - suspending important services and asking residents to refrain from visiting our hospital unless they were patients. It has been a struggle for all of us to tell the community to keep its distance as we work to protect our patients and health care workers from the spread of COVID-19.

Throughout our area, we have all had to practice social distancing and have been isolated to slow the spread of this illness. This is a necessary task because this virus is twice as contagious as influenza.

While this is not something that any of us wanted to endure, one thing this pandemic has demonstrated is that our community is strong and we work together well to protect each other and ensure our overall health.

Throughout this crisis, TBH has worked closely with our federal, state and local partners to respond to this challenge, update contingency plans and stay informed with the most up-to-date information. We also have worked very closely with the Huron County and Sandusky County health departments. As a hospital, we want to thank all our partners for their knowledge and expertise.

I am mindful that as I write this in mid-March much will have changed by the time you read this. I am very proud of our health care heroes who have worked tirelessly to care for our community. We have set contingency plans in place that hopefully will help us persevere well into the future. Remember, as long as we work together, we will get through this.

Sincerely,

Michael K. Winthrop  
*President and CEO  
 The Bellevue Hospital*



**THE BELLEVUE HOSPITAL**

*Quality Care, Close To Home*

Please enjoy our **HEALTH *e*news** to help keep you informed.

Join us on Facebook and visit our website at [www.bellevuehospital.com](http://www.bellevuehospital.com). Upcoming events and programs listed inside. Please contact the Marketing Department at 419.483.4040, Ext. 4899 with any questions.



# COVID-19: What You Need To Know

As the COVID-19 outbreak evolves, TBH knows our community members are concerned. TBH is continuing to work closely with our federal, state and local partners to stay informed and to ensure we are as prepared as possible.

Our hospital has implemented protocols that are consistent with the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) guidelines to help protect our patients, health care workers and community members and to slow the spread of flu-like illnesses.

## What is TBH doing to monitor the disease?

TBH has a group of leaders who are assigned to monitor the most current outbreak information on a regular basis. This process is called the Incident Command System.

Our hospital is actively monitoring information from the CDC, the Ohio Department of Health and the Hospital Council of Northwest Ohio so we can update contingency plans as needed.

TBH is closely following CDC recommendations on how to best use and preserve existing supplies of personal protective equipment due to concerns about limited supplies. We are consistently monitoring supplies on-hand so that we are prepared for any potential increase in patients exhibiting signs of COVID-19.

Recent travel history has been part of our admission process for the last several years. Patients with recent travel outside of the U.S. or contact history who present to the hospital with symptoms including cough, fever, difficulty breathing and signs of respiratory infection will be considered at risk for COVID-19. Staff members will implement standard precautions to render care to these patients.

Hospitals and health systems are focused on identifying, isolating and informing on new cases of patients known or suspected of having the virus. We will continue to work very closely with the Huron County Health Department and Sandusky County Public Health to coordinate the processes for reporting and specimen management if needed.

## Current Visitor Restrictions

TBH has recently updated visitor restrictions following CDC guidelines. Please note, this information may change. The following is a list of visitor restrictions and suspended services as of March 20.

### Visitor restrictions:

- No visitors permitted in the inpatient areas. Visitor exceptions will be considered based on end-of-life situations.
- Patients in the Family Birthing Center are permitted two designated visitors for the birth of a child.
- Pediatric patients under the age of 18 are allowed only two designated visitors. These should be the same two visitors for the duration of hospital stay.
- Surgery patients will be allowed one visitor to accompany them.
- Outpatients should not bring any visitors with them. Exceptions would be made for those who are disabled and need assistance.
- No one who is sick with flu-like illness or has someone in

immediate family with illness should visit the hospital.

- Children under the age of 18 should not visit any areas of the hospital.

### Great Lakes Physicians has also developed visitor restrictions and proactive measures to protect our patients, visitors and staff. They include:

- No children under the age of 18 are permitted unless they are the person being seen for the appointment.
- Limit of one person accompanying a patient to an appointment.
- Patients over the age of 65 will be asked to reschedule wellness or non-urgent appointments to reduce exposure to illness.
- If a patient has any of the following symptoms, they are asked to call the office to reschedule their wellness or non-urgent appointments.
  - Fever, cough, shortness of breath or exposure to anyone diagnosed with or suspected of having COVID-19.
- If the appointment is for an acute illness for flu-like or respiratory illnesses, patients are asked to call the office from their vehicle when they arrive for instructions on entering the office.

## What services at TBH are affected by COVID-19?

In order to continue to reduce exposure to our patients, visitors and community, we are continuing to make decisions for the safety and health of our patients, healthcare workers and community. The following changes have been implemented:

### Changes in location of service:

The Great Lakes Addiction Services (Suboxone Clinic) has relocated from the TBH Specialty Physicians Clinic in The Bellevue Hospital to 420 W. McPherson Hwy., Clyde. This will include all clinics held by Dr. Samuel Ross, Dr. Douglas Hoy, Dawn Bova, CNP and Pamela Cramer, CNP.

### TBH services currently suspended until further notice:

- Anytime Fitness Gym
- Open Swim and Instructed Fitness in the Aquatic Therapy Pool
- Community Health Screenings
- Health Information Management (Medical Records) is currently closed to the public. For information regarding the release of medical records, please call 419.483.4040, Ext. 4212.
- Lamaze and Breastfeeding Basics Classes. If you have any questions or concerns about childbirth preparedness, please call TBH's Childbirth Educator at 419.483.4040, Ext. 4295.
- Main Station Café (cafeteria) closed to the public
- Mature Audience Luncheons
- Morning and Evening Health Breaks
- Phase 3 Cardiac Rehabilitation Services
- Respiratory Pulmonary Function Tests
- Sleep Disorders Center
- TBH Gift Shop
- Volunteer Services (all in-person volunteer activities are suspended)
- All services at Vein & Body Specialists
- All other Community Events, Classes and Support Groups

### Events canceled or postponed:

- The Easter Bunny Event on Friday, April 10
- Volunteer Banquet on Thursday, April 23

### How can I help protect myself?

People can help protect themselves from respiratory illness with everyday preventive actions.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.

### If you are sick, to keep from spreading respiratory illness to others, you should:

- Stay home when you are sick and practice social distancing.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

For more COVID-19 information, visit [www.cdc.org](http://www.cdc.org).

## CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) WHEN TO SEEK CARE

Please follow the guidelines below when considering whether or not to seek medical care if you're experiencing symptoms similar to symptoms associated with COVID-19.



### STAY HOME

If you are worried, but well, **please stay home.**

Going to a hospital or doctor's office when well adds a higher number of people and can overwhelm medical staff.



### CALL FOR ADVICE

If you are **sick** and think you have been **exposed** to COVID-19 call your health care provider to discuss your exposure and symptoms.



### SEEK CARE

If you are sick and feel you have an emergency, such as difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, or persistent pain or pressure in your chest, seek medical care immediately. Please let your care provider know your symptoms.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND UPDATES, VISIT: [bellevuehospital.com](http://bellevuehospital.com)  
FOR GENERAL COVID-19 QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL THE  
OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH HOTLINE AT 1.833.427.5634



## Family Activities to do During COVID-19 Closures

There are so many things you can do with your children or grandchildren during this time at home!  
The following is a list of ideas from the Ohio Department of Health.

### Get outside and play!

- Take a nature walk
- Join your children outside for a game of hide and seek or a scavenger hunt around the yard
- Start planning your summer garden
- Go for a jog
- Create an obstacle course with toys and games from your garage

### Explore More Indoors!

- Start a virtual book club! Choose a book and start an online chat with your friends
- Play board games indoors
- Try a new recipe or make dinner as a family
- Read a chapter book together and discuss the characters and plot
- Pop some popcorn and cuddle up for a movie marathon
- Turn up the volume and have a family dance party
- Make a scrapbook of souvenirs from a previous vacation
- Get the creativity flowing. Give your kids art supplies to create show pieces for your home
- Can't get to the gym? Try an online workout
- Give everyone a task and get a jump on spring cleaning

### Computer Fun!

- Learn about Ohio's rich history from the Ohio History Connection at [Ohiohistory.org/learn](http://Ohiohistory.org/learn)
- Are your children missing their school friends or other family members? Set up a virtual playdates
- Search Youtube for video tutorials on how to draw, learn a foreign language, or how to make those repairs you have been putting off





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POSTAL CUSTOMER

## THE BELLEVUE HOSPITAL WELCOMES

### *Dr. Matthew P. Noyes - Board Certified in Orthopedic Surgery*

**Matthew P. Noyes, M.D.** has joined the staff of The Bellevue Hospital as an orthopedic surgeon. He is board certified in Orthopedic Surgery and specializes in shoulder replacements, rotator cuff repairs and minimally invasive carpal tunnel surgery. Dr. Noyes also manages sports medicine injuries and performs surgeries for fractures. He is currently in practice at Tri-County Orthopedic Surgeons in Canton. Prior to becoming an orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Noyes served as a physical therapist for more than two years. He played for The Ohio State University rugby team and enjoys traveling and basketball.

**Education:**

Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH  
Doctor of Medicine, University of Toledo College of Medicine, Toledo, OH

**Residency:**

Department of Orthopedic Surgery, Wright State University, Dayton, OH

**Professional Memberships:**

American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons  
American Physical Therapy Association  
Ohio Orthopedic Society



*Matthew Noyes, M.D.*  
Board Certified Orthopedic Surgeon



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