



**April 22, 2020**

***New Information From Your CPMG Medical Directors...  
... always interesting to us – hopefully useful to you!***

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**From:** "Morris, Kenneth MD" <[kmorris@rchsd.org](mailto:kmorris@rchsd.org)>

**Date:** April 21, 2020 at 6:43:40 PM PDT

**Subject:** CPCMGRCPMS COVID-19 NIGHTLY UPDATE 4/21/2020

Good Evening:

*These are nightly updates for all CPCMGRCPMS staff. Other valued community members which includes all CPMG affiliates and Radys Executives, as asked, have been included for the sake of collaboration. Please note that the information included herein is geared towards CPCMGRCPMS staff and while generally useful to the broad community, all aspects may not always be applicable to your respective organizations.*

Reflections during the COVID-19 crisis: When I first got into medical leadership over 20 years ago, there has been one quandary that managed care has been unable to solve. How do you keep patients from inappropriately using the emergency rooms as their primary care home? Managed care plans have tried many tactics from incentivizing primary care providers, outreach, case management of over utilizers, charging co-pays, down coding charges from ER doctors, etc. and nothing has really worked. Medicaid patients which tend to be among the higher utilizers cannot be charged a co-pay or a penalty for inappropriate use. Nothing has worked until now. It appears that the COVID-19 pandemic has struck such fear into the public such that patients are either afraid of accessing care or have the notion that they do not want to over burden already over taxed physicians and nurses. In many cases, patients have delayed going to the ER such that they have put their own lives in danger with non-COVID related conditions such as heart attacks. Of course, in reality, most ER 's have never been safer due to screening and triage and some ER doctors I have spoken with are now happy for the occasional patient who comes in with just a case of diarrhea or a cold. The question remains as to whether the new found knowledge by patients and families will stick such that they now know that they don't need to access the ER or a primary care office for the first sign of a snuffle or stomach ache. If it does stick, I would expect that the way we staff our offices, urgent cares and ERs will forever be changed. Time will tell...

## **RISK LEVEL**

We remain at **Risk Level 3**.

- Access:
  - All sites remain open and all sites continue to see well and sick visits in a modified format.
- Self-monitoring: For fever twice daily for all staff and providers.
- Incident Command:
  - Directed Regional Testing is expected to launch this Thursday, 4/23/20. CPCMG providers should take note of the standalone email that went out to them earlier this afternoon. The included ordering Tip Sheet has been added to the Knowledge Base (KB) for future reference.
    - Please note that there was a small error in the email caught first by Dr. Mortimer. Flu testing was included along with Strep as an Oropharyngeal (OP) test. Flu should have been included in the Nasopharyngeal (NP) section.
    - For employee testing, we are only testing symptomatic employees at this time after consultation with the RCPMS Quality Nurses.
      - If asymptomatic testing is desired now, please access the SEARCH study testing noted below.

## **CASES**

### **CPCMG/RCPMS:**

- Staff/Providers:
  - No positive cases for providers that have been tested.
  - No new staff cases
- Patients:
  - No new patients

### **Riverside County:**

- Sunday Evening 4/19: 1.4% increase-2638 total cases with 75 confirmed cases in children 0-17 y/o (2.8%)
- Monday Evening 4/20: 7.3% increase-2847 total cases with 84 confirmed cases in children 0-17 y/o (3.0%)
- Tuesday Evening 4/21: 3.8% increase-2960 total cases with 88 confirmed cases in children 0-17 y/o (3.0%)

### **San Diego County:**

- Sunday Evening 4/19: 2.4% increase-2,268 total cases with 56 confirmed cases in children 0-19 y/o (2.5%)
- Monday Evening 4/20: 2.5% increase-2,325 total cases with 60 confirmed cases in children 0-19 y/o (2.6%)
- Tuesday Evening 4/21: 4.5% increase-2,434 total cases with 64 confirmed cases in children 0-19 y/o (2.6%)

### Statewide:

- Sunday Evening 4/19: 4.5% increase-30,333 positive cases with 1.8% of the TOTAL cases being in children 0-17 y/o
- Monday Evening 4/20: 2.1% increase-30,978 positive cases with 1.8% of the TOTAL cases being in children 0-17 y/o
- Tuesday Evening 4/21: 6.9% increase-33,261 positive cases with 2.1% of the TOTAL cases being in children 0-17 y/o

### Radys Community Pathogens Report (4/13/20-4/19/20)

- RSV: 1 case
- Influenza: No Flu A or Flu B cases
- COVID-19: 12 cases

### **COUNTY STAY AT HOME ORDER RELAXATIONS**

Riverside: Have relaxed activities such that golfing, hiking, equestrian and tennis are permitted providing that social distancing is maintained and facial coverings are worn. Parks and trails remain open although use of picnic tables and playgrounds are prohibited.

San Diego: Some neighborhood parks will be reopening today to support walking and jogging as long as social distancing can be maintained with facial coverings recommended, but not required.

### **BLS/PALS RENEWALS**

The American Heart Association (AHA) has issued interim guidance extending BLS/PALS/ACLS cards 120 days past their renewal dates beginning with cards expiring in March 2020. Radys BLS/PALS/ACLS courses have been postponed until further notice. For years, I have been doing my PALS and BLS renewal through Nurses Ed ([www.nursesed.net](http://www.nursesed.net)) because it is much easier to get a class. They remain open for business with practices geared at maintaining social distancing and not practicing 2:1 and two rescuers CPR at this time.

In any event, CPCMG/RCPMS will honor the 120 days extension for cards expiring in March for those unable to find access to renewals. Most hospitals appear to be honoring these renewal extensions as well. If you find yourself in a situation such that a hospital is not honoring the extensions, please reach out to our Quality Nurses and we will find a way to offer an individual 1:1 renewal and/or contact the hospital in question on your behalf.

### **HEALTH CARE WORKER COVID-19 DEALS**

Perhaps the best deal I can comment on is that Costco is letting certain health care workers cut the line. I cannot comment on who is included in this grouping of HCW's. For those in need of toilet paper, they have pretty much had it the last 3 times I went on a Saturday. Our friends at Radys have also included an **attached** deal sheet for various opportunities available to HCWs during the crisis.

## **SEARCH STUDY TESTING**

- Testing continues 8 AM – 2 PM through Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. Note: the flyer says through 4/24, but it is available through 5/1/2020.
- Please see and bring the **attached** updated flyer (testing is now on the Rady's Main Campus in the Frost Street parking lot near the cafeteria)
- No appointment necessary, drive up or walk up.
- Open to CPCMG, RCPMS and Affiliates.
- One of our doctors remarked: "those swabs really do go in FAR!"

## **TESTING**

*Clinicians should use their judgment to determine if the patient has signs and symptoms compatible with COVID-19 and whether the patient should be tested.*

**More important than testing is the message that if a patient has mild symptoms, is to self-isolate.**

Public Health is now following CDC guidelines for testing priority. Priority levels 1 & 2 should be our top focus. In certain cases, testing of Priority 3 symptomatic patients without associated concerns can be considered.

### **Priority 1**

- Hospitalized Patients
- Symptomatic Healthcare workers

### **Priority 2**

- Symptomatic people 65 y/o and above
- Symptomatic patients in long-term care facilities
- Symptomatic patients with underlying conditions/risk factors
- Symptomatic first responders
- Symptomatic children being direct cared for by an older caregiver or caregiver with underlying conditions [Note: the CDC does not cover this group but we feel that this falls into Priority 2 instead of Priority 3].

### **Priority 3**

- Symptomatic essential workers
- Healthcare workers and first responders (not symptomatic)
- Symptomatic patients/people who are not in above priority groups
- Symptomatic people with mild symptoms in communities with high numbers of COVID-19 hospitalizations [this is not San Diego County/Riverside County as a whole].

Radys Drive Up Testing (NEW): This is now available to CPCMG and Affiliates for testing of patients and staff/providers meeting our criteria. Please see the **attached** map for a lay of the land.

- Testing occurs at Building 28 (which is the building under the green rectangle that says “MAIN Entrance”)
- Visitor parking is accessed by taking the Birmingham Drive side street off of Birmingham Way (past the EOB where we have our Open Education Meetings). At the end of the Birmingham Drive cul-de-sac on the right is the parking lot.
- An order must be placed for COVID-19 PCR via the Smart Set.
- All patients must make an appointment before going for testing at the drive by tent so that the patient can have an encounter created and labels can be printed in advance.
  - Call 858-966-6776
    - Monday-Friday 0730-1700
    - Saturday 0900-1730
    - Sunday 0900-1400
  - Call 858-966-5413 for after-hours scheduling
    - Monday-Friday 1700-2100
- There is some capacity for walk-in, same day patients. They must go to the MOB located at 3030 children's Way (purple box) near the “You Are Here” yellow circle on the map.

## **INFECTION PREVENTION & CONTROL-Contact & Droplet**

### **Precautions**

- Break Rooms & Social Distancing: This continues to pop up on the Sharp and Scripps Hospital Q&A blogs that I have been reading. We have also had a couple of instances of potential employee exposures directly related to our break rooms where we almost had to exclude providers and staff from working for 14 days. I have been assured by our quality nursing team that they have reviewed our guidelines with all sites several times. To review our policy:
  - Break rooms can be used as long as the number of people in the room eating at once can be properly social distanced. A rotation of staff may be advised.
  - We do not expect anyone to try to eat their food with their mask on so therefore if you are not wearing your mask, you need to be properly distanced.
  - In 23 years, I have also learned that there are opportunities for potlucks for more reasons than I can possibly recall. We do not want to put a kibosh on camaraderie.
    - If you are having a potluck, we would suggest having all staff wearing masks while they come together to get their food, and then separate properly while eating it.

**The following section is submitted by Dr. Michael Jacobson, CMIO**

**KNOWLEDGE BASE (KB)**

Please visit the [CPCMG Knowledge Base](#) for all sign-ups, knowledge articles, and tip sheets.

**As a daily reminder to all staff and providers, if you have a fever (Temp  $\geq 100.0$ ), please do not come to work! If you are not feeling quite right, it is best to stay home. Besides taking care of yourselves, we need to keep co-workers and patients healthy.**

Thanks,

-KM

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