

Statement to the Community from CHI Franciscan

"The health and safety of our patients and staff is our highest priority and we've taken aggressive steps in line with CDC and state guidance to prevent COVID-19 infections at our facilities.

Unfortunately, a number of people at St. Michael Medical Center in Bremerton have tested positive for COVID-19. Due to an increase in COVID-19 activity within the Kitsap community, and out of an abundance of caution, we have decided to restrict visitors to the hospital. We are working closely with the state health department and Kitsap Public Health and performing contact tracing and ongoing testing.

We continue to follow CDC and public health recommendations. Per these recommendations, the best way to reduce infections and stay healthy is to follow social distancing guidelines and wear a mask when you are in public and in any health care setting." – Cary Evans, Vice President for Communications and Government Affairs, CHI Franciscan

COVID-19 Safety and St. Michael Medical Center Updates

- The best way to limit the spread of COVID-19 and stay healthy is to follow all public health guidance for social distancing, mask wearing and frequent hand washing.
- Here are [health and safety recommendations](#) for common activities people might engage in this summer.
- Here are [resources](#) to learn about getting tested and safety getting care when you need it.
- Here is where the community can learn the [latest updates](#) at St. Michael Medical Center.

Ongoing Infection Prevention Procedures at St. Michael Medical Center

- Universal masking in effect for everyone in the hospital, including all patients, staff, and visitors
- All public, inpatient, outpatient and surgical service areas implementing physical distancing standards
- Meticulous hand hygiene for all staff
- Staff are following all public health PPE guidance when caring for patients, including universal eye protection such as goggles or face shields
- Rigorous daily cleaning protocols
- Screening all staff, visitors, and patients before they enter our facilities
- Testing all patients for COVID-19 72 hours before scheduled procedures
- Suspected and confirmed COVID patients are placed in an appropriate isolation room
- Visitation has been reduced at the hospital to limit potential exposure.
- Contact tracing to identify if infection was caused by a community spread, and to identify any staff or patients who may have been impacted

- Additional cleaning of the entire unit by trained housekeeping staff following infection control procedures. This includes disinfection of all horizontal and frequently touched surfaces.
- Removing any employees with symptoms or suspected exposure from work and test them

Additional Steps We Are Taking with Public Health Guidance

- Expand testing to all staff in addition to regular screenings
- Repeat testing of all patients in the hospital
- Temporarily restricting new admissions to some units pending a series of negative test results
- Share our updated COVID response to patients undergoing elective procedures
- [Increased](#) visitor restrictions