



Ascension

To: Ascension St. Francis Hospital Associates and Medical Staff

CC: Kristin McManmon, President
Dr. Brad Fedderly, Vice President-Medical Affairs
Dr. Kathy Shallow, Chief of Staff

From: Jill M. Berg, RN, PhD, FAHA, FATA, FAAN
Vice President of Patient Care

Date: May 19, 2020

Subject: Expanding COVID Inpatient Capacity

As you are aware, the COVID pandemic has continued to have a significant impact on the country, Wisconsin residents, and Ascension St. Francis Hospital. This week we are experiencing our highest number of confirmed and suspected (PUI) hospitalized patients. With this continued trend, we are now moving to the next phase of our surge plan.

Effective immediately, the existing Cardiac Intervention Center (CIC), will serve as our ICU for our non-COVID and non-PUI critical care patients. The existing ICU will be dedicated to care for COVID and PUI patients requiring critical and intermediate level of care. This arrangement will make the unit "acuity adaptable" so we do not have to transfer patients as frequently when their care needs change. Also happening today, we are opening 3S as a second dedicated COVID unit to accommodate our expanding needs.

I want to thank each of you for your flexibility and dedication to our patients during this pandemic. Your teamwork and collegiality have been nothing less than remarkable. Please know that I am proud to have you as my partners as we work to deliver on our promise of exceptional patient care. The continued surge we are experiencing will require us to be creative as we adapt to these changing demands and rise to the challenge. As always, continue to share your ideas and feedback so we can modify and improve together. Our team is committed to ensure you have the resources and support necessary to care for our patients.

I am grateful for your dedication to our mission, our patients and to each other. You are truly examples of God's love at work, caring for the most vulnerable in their time of need. And as you do this, please be sure to take care of yourself as well. Your well being is a priority and there are a number of resources available to support you. [Ascension Wisconsin EAP COVID-19 page](#) and [Mission Integration Resources](#).

If you have any questions about these changes or the pandemic response, please contact your manager, any member of the Incident Command team, or me directly.



Scott Jenquin <scott.jenquin@ascension.org>

We can do this!

1 message

Norberto Rodriguez <norberto.rodriguez@ascension.org>

Thu, May 21, 2020 at 2:38 PM

Reply-To: norberto.rodriguez@ascension.org

To: WIGLE-DL-WFH SFH Leadership Team <wfhsfhleadershipteam@wfhc.org>, "WIGLE-DL-WFH St. Francis Assoc" <wfhst.francisassoc@wfhc.org>

Sent on behalf of Kristin McManmon.

Dear Ascension Ascension All Saints & Ascension St. Francis Associates and Medical Staff Members,

While our sister hospitals across Ascension Wisconsin are experiencing declines in COVID positive inpatients, we are continuing to surge at both All Saints and St. Francis. This week we have experienced our highest volumes of COVID and PUI cases to date for these two sites. There are many theories as to why we are experiencing increases though we do not know with certainty what the key drivers are. As we watch our data, there have been increases in case volume in northern Illinois and in Kenosha county to our south. In addition, the rate of percent positive with testing has been significantly higher than other counties in our region. We also noted spikes in our inpatient volume in the ten day windows after Easter, May 1 (first warmer day in our community), and this week, 8 days after Mother's Day. As I have shared before, as healthcare professionals you are a trusted voice in your families and within your circle of friends. Please continue to message the importance of not letting your guard down and to follow safe practices such as social distancing, hand hygiene, covering coughs and wearing a mask to protect others.

In our hospitals, we continue to ensure that we have the resources, equipment, supplies and PPE to keep you safe and support patient care. The Incident Command teams meet around the clock, 7 days/week to monitor our situation and make modifications to make sure we are always ready. The most critical factor in our ability to continue to deliver on our mission is **you**. With the sustained volumes and the nature of this work, it is important that each of you engage in self-care. Take a walk, step away from the work, meditate-do whatever you need to in order to care for and love yourself. Ascension has published a number of [resources](#) I have personally found helpful, especially the Ascension All Saints guided imagery for Your Health app Ascension All Saints Guided Imagery for Your Health.

As we look to the next several days, while I hope we will see a decline, we are planning for a continued surge. I and others from the Incident Command team will be with you and constantly monitoring the situation. It has been a long road already and while I wish I could tell you that it is ending soon, I cannot. What I can tell you is that you are strong. Individually and collectively you have demonstrated extraordinary strength, compassion and focus. As important, you have the gift of our team. And not just the St. Francis and All Saints teams but, the Ascension Wisconsin team. We are a family and I have seen the unconditional love of this family firsthand. It has come in the form of associates coming from Ascension Wisconsin hospitals to serve in our south market hospitals, AMG ambulatory providers coming to practice in our hospitals and the constant expressions of support from our colleagues. Today, I received the following note from my dear colleague Kelly Elkins, President of Ascension Columbia St. Mary's Milwaukee & Ozaukee hospitals. Take the time to read her encouraging message and watch the video the CSM associates created

for you. It is inspiring to know that our Ascension family believes in our teams and recognizes that **"you got this."**

Our leaders and frontline staff at CSM wanted to put together a little something to share hope and inspiration with your teams at All Saints and St. Francis on the frontlines to reassure them that this too shall pass and that you all have the strength and talent needed to weather this storm.

Click [here](#) to view our special message.
(You will want your speakers turned on as there is audio with this message.)

We hope that this brings some light to your day.
Stay strong and stay safe!

Kelly

As you may have normally spent this weekend with family and friends to celebrate Memorial Day, many of us will spend it with our Ascension family caring for our patients. I hope through the video message from Ascension CSM, you feel the love and support from our extended family. I know each of you will continue to rise and up and serve with the compassion and strength you have demonstrated so far. As a team- and as a family- we will navigate the coming days with the same resilience that drove us for the last seventy days.

My continued personal blessing to you is this: ***May God bless you and keep you; may you know the infinite goodness and strength that resides within you; may you find peace and happiness amidst the uncertainty at this time; and may you never forget how to bless and support one another.***

With heartfelt gratitude,

Kristin

Kristin McManmon
President
Ascension | All Saints Hospital
Ascension | St. Francis Hospital
Ascension | Franklin Hospital

T: 262-687-4886 (*All Saints*)

T: 414- 325-4519 (*Franklin*)

M: 314-456-6960

Kristin.McManmon@ascension.org