

To:

Ascension St. Francis Hospital Leaders, Physicians and Associates

From:

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Saints Hospital and Ascension SE Wisconsin Hospital - Franklin Campus Jill Berg, Vice President, Patient Care, Ascension St. Francis Hospital

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Elizabeth Lemons, Interim Chief Operating Officer, Ascension Wisconsin

Sharon Lab, Vice President, Operations, Touchpoint

Date:

July 1, 2020

Subject:

Update on Food Services at Ascension St. Francis

This message is being shared now with Ascension St. Francis Hospital leaders, physicians and associates.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

At Ascension St. Francis Hospital, three food service associates tested positive for COVID-19. Two additional associates are considered persons under investigation (PUI) and are awaiting test results. All five individuals are quarantined at home and will return to work based on CDC guidelines.

The health and safety of our patients, associates and visitors are top priorities at Ascension St. Francis Hospital. We are closely following CDC recommended guidelines and working with the Milwaukee Health Department to detect, protect, respond and trace contacts in accordance with their recommendations and guidelines. Consistent with CDC guidelines, all directly impacted individuals in the hospital's food service department have been sent home and will remain at home with pay until they can safely return to work.

According to the CDC, there is no evidence to suggest that handling food or consuming food is associated with the spread of COVID-19.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

In addition to continuing to implement enhanced infection prevention precautions and safeguards, we have further elevated rigorous disinfecting measures to deep clean the kitchen and cafeteria. To ensure uninterrupted food service to our patients, staff from other Ascension Wisconsin locations are providing food service and limited meal options during this time.

We continue to implement the recommended infection prevention precautions and protocols within our sites of care and our caregivers are trained in infection prevention practices and protocols. Our infection prevention specialists are staying updated on any further measures we may need to take as additional guidance becomes available.

At Ascension St. Francis Hospital, our commitment to the health and safety of our patients, their families, our associates and the community will always be our top priority. We are taking the necessary steps to ensure we continue to deliver safe, compassionate and quality care.

We will keep you updated on the situation. If you have any questions, please speak with your local incident Command Team.

Thank you.