



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 & Chief Nursing Officer

Date: October 9, 2020

Subject: St. Francis Hospital Update and Increased COVID Presence

The COVID pandemic has continued to have a significant impact on the country, Wisconsin residents, and Ascension St. Francis Hospital (SFH). This week we are experiencing an increased trend of confirmed and suspected (PUI) hospitalized and outpatient patients. The Incident Command (IC) team monitors all activity related to the pandemic and has plans in place, should we have to change direction at any time with our scheduled or elective care.

Thank you for your continued flexibility and dedication to our patients during this challenging time. Your teamwork and collegiality continue to be inspiring. Over recent days, the SFH census has been over 100, and yesterday we had 99 inpatients compared to an average census of 75 inpatients. Our ICU has been very busy with both COVID and non-COVID patients. The SFH leadership team and I understand that these situations place additional demands on everyone, in every department. Thank you for rising up and responding to the increased activity. I am proud to have you as my partners as we work to deliver on our promise of exceptional patient care.

Please know that while you respond to support care, our leadership team is committed to ensuring you have the resources and support necessary to care for our patients. There are multiple RN and PCA positions posted, interviews are in process, and new associates are in the pipeline for SFH. In the meantime, so we can better meet the increased demands, contracts are in place with temporary agency staff. As we work to hire additional associates, I will need you to continue to volunteer for additional shifts. If everyone would consider volunteering for one additional shift per pay period, it would go a long way to support each other during this pandemic response.

Please be sure to take care of yourself, and try to take steps to limit your exposure to people outside of your home. Whenever possible, wear a mask and practice good hand hygiene and safe social distancing. Your well-being is my priority, and there are a number of resources available to support you: [Ascension Wisconsin EAP COVID-19 page](#) and [Mission Integration Resources](#).

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. If you have any questions, please contact your manager, any member of the IC team, or me directly.