



# COVID-19 Update

## COVID-19 Update: March 17, 2020

This is a daily joint communication from the Sangamon County Department of Public Health (SCDPH) along with Memorial Health System, HSHS St. John's Hospital, Springfield Clinic and SIU Medicine updating you on the status of coronavirus (COVID-19) in Sangamon County. This communication will come at approximately 6 p.m. each day as necessary.

At the time of this press release, the total number of confirmed cases between our five organizations continues to be four.

Currently, one of those patients is at Memorial and three of them are now at their homes.

Memorial Health System has eight inpatients currently under investigation.

St. John's has eight inpatients currently under investigation.

Two of the total confirmed cases are Sangamon County residents and Sangamon County has 21 outstanding tests.

\*Please note: There are no new Sangamon County residents that have been confirmed to have COVID-19. The reason for the increase is that one of the confirmed cases reported yesterday has been clearly identified as living within Sangamon County.

\*\*The discrepancy between total number and SCDPH number is created because the hospitals are caring for patients from outside counties and at multiple locations, and because some of the tests are being done by independent labs, rather than by IDPH/SCPHD.

## Off-Site Respiratory Centers

Patient Screening outside of Emergency Departments: Both Memorial Health System and HSHS St. John's have established respiratory screening centers. It is important for the public to understand how to properly access these locations and what they should expect as a part of that care. Patients will undergo a series of screening questions and will only be tested for COVID-19 should it be deemed necessary as a result of the screening. Please refer to the attached press release for further details regarding these respiratory centers.



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## **Entrance Screening**

As an added protection measure our healthcare organizations will be adding screening protocols at all of our locations. If you are entering a healthcare facility please expect to be stopped for screening and allow yourself a few extra minutes to get to your appointment. This screening may include several questions and a quick temperature check. We ask that you please be patient during this process as we work through the best ways to keep everyone healthy and safe.

## **Non-Essential Surgery Cancellations**

All four health care organizations have opted to cancel all non-essential, elective procedures. If you have questions as to whether or not this pertains to you, please contact your physician's office for clarification.