

Beth Israel Lahey Health

Addison Gilbert Hospital

Dear Friend,

As a valued supporter of Addison Gilbert Hospital, I am writing to let you know what we as a health care provider are doing to respond to the current COVID-19 public health emergency. Our priority, now, and always, is to protect the health and safety of our patients, staff and community.

As it has so many times in the past, our hospital community is banding together to continue to provide care under these exceptional circumstances. Here, and throughout the Beth Israel Lahey Health system, we have activated special Incident Command Teams to bring the best expertise and latest thinking to bear on how we take care of patients during this extremely challenging and rapidly changing time.

The expectation is that most cases of COVID-19 will be mild to moderate in severity, and may not require hospitalization. However, our state and local leaders ask that we each do our part to minimize contact with others and to halt the spread of infection. Social distancing has become a new phrase in our daily conversations, and handwashing and sanitizing are top of mind for us all.

What are we doing to keep you safe? Specific actions Beth Israel Lahey Health and we in particular have taken include screening patients; postponing elective surgeries, procedures and appointments; mobilizing telemedicine technology; optimizing our supply chain; reducing and screening all visitors to the hospital; creating new testing options and locations; and a host of other measures. We are asking any patients who believe they might have symptoms of or been exposed to COVID-19 to call their physician before coming to any of our facilities so plans can be made to test and treat them safely. And, we are working hard to protect the health of our workers so they can continue to take care of you.

For our patients in need of care: We have identified and have plans for using areas of the hospital to accommodate an expected surge in patients. We are also following constantly evolving guidance from state, federal and world health officials about best practices for caring for our patients and keeping our staff healthy. As we are all witnessing, this pandemic will require flexibility and patience in the days and weeks ahead. Following the lead of public health and government officials, we will be canceling or rescheduling some upcoming events. As you can well imagine, the COVID-19 pandemic will have financial consequences for our hospital, and so we have set up an Emergency Response Fund for donors who may be interested in providing immediate resources to be deployed for this and future emergencies. Gifts may be made by choosing "Emergency Response Fund" from the dropdown menu on our online giving page. In closing, please know we are doing our very best to keep you, and our entire community, healthy, and to be here for you if or when you need us. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,



Philip Cormier
President

PS: To learn more about symptoms and what you should do if you suspect you or a family member has been infected, and for other questions regarding COVID-19, please note that the latest guidance from state and federal health officials can be found on [Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov) and [CDC.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus); Beth Israel Lahey Health information is online at bilh.org/coronavirus.