

# Beth Israel Lahey Health

## Winchester Hospital



Dear Friend,

As a valued supporter of Winchester Hospital, I am writing to let you know what we are doing in response to the current COVID-19 public health emergency. You can be certain that we are doing everything possible to protect the health and safety of our patients, staff and community.

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 challenging and rapidly changing time.

**To protect the health of our patients and staff, Winchester Hospital has put the following procedures in place:** Screening all patients, rescheduling elective surgeries, mobilizing telemedicine technology, optimizing our supply chain and **restricting all visitors** to the hospital (unless essential and preapproved by each patient's care team). The latest information about our visitor policy can be found on [Winchesterhospital.org](http://Winchesterhospital.org). We are asking any patients who believe they might have COVID-19 to **call their physician** before coming to any of our facilities so that plans can be made to test and treat them safely.

In addition to the above, we have reconfigured areas of the hospital to accommodate an expected surge in patients. A tent has been erected in the Emergency Department parking lot should it be needed for testing patients. Like all hospitals, Winchester Hospital has special negative-pressure rooms in which to isolate infectious patients and keep their germs from spreading to others in the hospital. We are following constantly evolving guidance from state, federal and world health officials about best practices for caring for our patients and keeping our staff healthy.

The situation is rapidly evolving with new information available on a daily basis. The most up to date information is available and can be found on [Mass.gov](http://Mass.gov) and [CDC.gov/coronavirus](http://CDC.gov/coronavirus).

We at Winchester Hospital are very grateful for your support. Please know we are doing our very best for you and our entire community.

Sincerely,

Rick Weiner, MD  
President

PS: If you have questions, please reach out to Denise Flynn at [denise.l.flynn@lahey.org](mailto:denise.l.flynn@lahey.org).