Statement from Southcoast Health Chief Clinical Officer Dr. Dani Hackner

Over the weekend, Tobey Hospital’s Emergency Department received a patient who walked in under their own power displaying symptoms consistent with COVID-19 testing criteria issued by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH).

Southcoast Health providers notified DPH, received guidance, and obtained tests including COVID-19. Because the patient’s condition was determined to not require further hospitalization, the patient was discharged for self-quarantine. The test, processed by DPH, returned a positive result. A Southcoast Health physician informed the patient of the result. Case management is currently being handled by DPH and the patient’s local public health department in Plymouth County.

All Tobey Hospital staff who interacted with the patient have been contacted by Southcoast Health infection prevention personnel and administrative leaders. Staff members involved with the patient’s care are participating in an active review of the patient’s visit, and we are following all established procedures to safeguard their health and wellbeing.

Southcoast Health is grateful to the patient for entrusting their care to us; grateful to Tobey Hospital providers, nurses and clinical staff for their steady professionalism and expertise; and grateful to public health officials for their responsiveness. We will continue to work closely with all involved to ensure prevention and protection for the communities we serve – including our more than 7,500 employees. Be informed, be smart, and be safe. Please visit Southcoast.org for updates.

Dani Hackner MD MBA FACP FCCP
Chief Clinical Officer & Goodspeed Chair for Quality and Safety
Southcoast Hospitals Group
Physician in Chief, Medicine, Southcoast Physicians Group