

COVID-19 Bulletin

 Southcoast Health

Exclusively for the employees
of Southcoast Health

November 03, 2020

Good afternoon, Southcoast colleagues.

Baker-Polito administration announces targeted measures to curb rising COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations

On Monday, Nov. 2, Governor Baker announced a series of targeted measures to disrupt the increasing trend of new COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations. All orders and advisories will be effective Friday, November 6th at 12:01am.

The measures include a **revised order requiring everyone to wear face-coverings in all public places**, even where they are able to maintain 6 feet of distance from others. The revised order still allows for an exception for residents who cannot wear a face-covering due to a medical or disabling condition, but it allows employers to require employees to provide proof of such a condition. It also allows schools to require that students participating in in-person learning provide proof of such a medical or disabling condition.

The Governor Baker also signed an updated order that **reduces the size limit for indoor gatherings at private residences to 10 people and outdoor gatherings at private residences to 25 people**. The limit on gatherings held in public spaces and at event venues (e.g., wedding venues) remains the same. The new order also requires that all gatherings (regardless of size or location) must end and disperse by 9:30pm.

The measures also include a requirement to stay at home during selected hours and early closure of businesses and activities.

The full press release is attached to this bulletin.

Changes in visitation policy at Charlton Memorial Hospital and St. Luke's Hospital Emergency Department

With the community seeing rising rates in COVID-19 cases, and in order to keep our patients, staff and providers safe, as of October 30, visitors are not allowed inside Charlton Memorial, with the following exceptions:

- Visitors of patients on Comfort Measures Only (CMO), i.e., at end-of-life/imminent death
 - Up to 3 family members; 1-hour limit per visitor but can come into hospitals 2-3 times per day, unless called in by clinical team then no time limits would be applied.
- Birth partners
- Parents/Guardians of patients under the age of 18 years old
- Attorneys or legal representatives of patients
- Visitors of patients with intellectual and/or physical disabilities
- Visitors as otherwise permitted by a patient's care team

Click for [Charlton Memorial Visitation Policy \(10-30-2020\) signage](#).

Additionally, as of Monday, November 2, visitors are not allowed in the Emergency Department at St. Luke's, except for a guardian or essential companion as determined by the care team,

Click for [St. Luke's Visitation Policy \(11-02-2020\) signage](#).

The public is being notified through our Southcoast.org website and social media channels. New signage has been installed.

criteria: average daily cases per 100K below 10 AND positive test rate below 5%, both measured as a 7-day rolling average.

Data is from covidexitstrategy.org as of October 28, 2020.

Counseling resources for you and your family – Taking care of you

During these difficult times, it's good to know that there are professionals with whom you can easily speak about the challenges you are facing, personally and professionally.

Free, confidential counseling services for employees and household family members are available for anyone who might benefit from some additional support.

You are encouraged to click for [more information](#) to choose from several resources.

Stop the Spread

Stop the Spread is a state initiative to promote and support the testing of asymptomatic individuals in communities across Massachusetts, including Fall River and New Bedford, that have continued to see a higher number of residents testing positive for COVID-19.

If you are a resident of one of these communities, even if you have no COVID symptoms, please get tested to help stop the spread. Click [Stop the Spread](#) for a list of testing sites.

COVID-19 mobile app from Southcoast Health

The COVID-19 Mobile App from Southcoast Health provides you with a direct link to the Southcoast intranet COVID-19 page.

You must be enrolled with Southcoast Health secure mobile access to download the COVID-19 mobile app. If you are not yet enrolled with Southcoast Health secure mobile access, please contact the MIS Help desk for assistance.

To download the app to your mobile device:

1. Open **Secure Hub** from your home screen
 2. Select  in the top left-hand corner.
 3. Select Store.
 4. Scroll through the store and select COVID-19. This will install an app on your mobile device home screen so you can access the latest information from Southcoast Health on the COVID-19 intranet page.
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Speak to safety



In this video, Dr. Jim Watson from Southcoast Gastroenterology demonstrates a conversation with a patient's son.

Three Southcoast-produced training videos on our COVID-19 intranet page demonstrate how to talk with patients and families about the safety measures in place to keep them safe from COVID-19.

We urge everyone to view the brief videos. These guidelines and strategies are vital to maintaining patient and public confidence in our commitment to prevent COVID-19 transmission within Southcoast facilities.

View the videos [here](#).

View the [Southcoast Hospitals Safety Pledge](#) and the ["You're Safe Here" Safety Signage All Facilities](#).

Status report: COVID-19 cases

- We currently have 33 patients who have tested positive for COVID-19 hospitalized across our system – 7 in Intensive Care Units.
- In addition, we currently have 67 patients under investigation (PUI) currently hospitalized across our system – 4 in ICU.

The COVID-19 dashboard is available [here](#).

Southcoast's dashboard of COVID-19 data, generated by Epic, is updated daily and is [available on our intranet](#).

For the latest updates, guidance on PPE, video messages, employee assistance and more, please [visit the Southcoast intranet](#).

Questions? Please email them to faq@southcoast.org.

Thank you, and be well.