

Covid-19 and Circle Health Occupational Medicine Services

Occupational Medicine Clientele,

Please be advised Lowell General Hospital is closely monitoring updates from the CDC and DPH regarding COVID-19 and implementing the necessary changes to ensure the public's safety. At this moment it has been decided to suspend our Occupational Medicine services for the next two weeks to help reduce the risk of exposure to our staff and patients. We will be contacting all Occupational Medicine clients that have appointments today to reschedule.

If you have any specific questions or unique concerns please call the Occupational Medicine Navigator at 978-937-6868. We strongly recommend you follow the updates on the CDC, WHO, Massachusetts DPH, and OSHA websites. The organization links are listed at the bottom of this letter.

What to do if you have a sick employee?

At this time, the CDC recommends that sick employees with cough, fever, and shortness of breath stay home and self-quarantine until fever-free for 24 hours without the use of medications to reduce fever. If an employee presents to work with respiratory symptoms, immediately separate the employee, send them home and ask that they call their primary care physician or the local Board of Health.

How to protect the workplace?

- Please make sure you emphasize hand hygiene, cough and sneeze etiquette.
- Ask employees to use hand sanitizer that is 60-95% alcohol level or wash hands for minimum of 20 seconds.
- Provide tissues and ask employees to cover mouth and nose when coughing/sneezing with it or use the inside of their elbow. Immediately wash hands or use hand sanitizer after.
- Regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces such as door knobs, light switches, countertops, desk, phones, etc.
- Ask employees to notify you if they have a sick member at home with Covid-19 and refer them to the CDC for guidance on how to conduct a risk assessment for potential exposure.
- If employee is confirmed to have Covid-19 infection, employer should inform fellow employees of their possible exposure in the workplace but maintain confidentiality per the ADA. Refer the employees to the CDC on how to conduct a risk assessment for potential exposure.

Please note at this time if you have a serious life-threatening concern then proceed immediately to the Emergency Room; otherwise, contact your primary care physician or the local Board of Health. We do not currently offer COVID-19 testing in the Circle Health Urgent Care Centers or Occupational Medicine clinics.

Also please visit the following websites for more information:

www.CDC.gov www.WHO.org www.OSHA.gov www.Mass.gov

Sincerely,

Circle Health Urgent Care and Occupational Medicine Department