



MATHER TRANSITIONAL CARE UNIT PANDEMIC EMERGENCY PLAN

On June 17, 2020 Governor Andrew Cuomo signed into Law Chapter 114 of the Laws of 2020 creating a new subdivision 12 to section 2803 of the Public Health Law. The new subdivision required each residential health care facility in New York State to prepare a Pandemic Emergency Plan (PEP).

The PEP will be initiated when a public health emergency is declared by federal or state agencies due to a pandemic. The following is the PEP for Northwell Health Mather Hospital Transitional Care Unit.

I. COMMUNICATION PLAN:

The Northwell Health Mather Hospital Transitional Care Unit (TCU) will institute a communication plan to patients, authorized family members, and guardians during a New York State Public Health Emergency/Pandemic. The following are the components and associated policies of the Communication Plan:

1. Upon admission to the facility, the Mather TCU staff will contact the authorized family member or guardian regarding the method of communication they wish to receive for the following:
 - Daily updates for residents infected with a pandemic related disease;
 - Weekly updates on the number of pandemic related infections and deaths in the facility.
2. Required communications will be by electronic means or other methods selected by each family member or guardian.
3. The Mather TCU staff will document the consent for the method of communication in the patient file.

Daily updates if a patient is infected with the pandemic infectious disease:

1. Upon initial diagnosis of the pandemic infectious disease or if there is a change in condition related to the pandemic infectious disease, the attending physician/designee will contact the authorized family member or guardian of the patient. This communication will be documented in the EMR.
2. The Registered Nurse/Designee will provide all other daily communications to the authorized family member or guardian for the duration that the patient/resident is infected with pandemic infectious disease. This communication will be documented in the EMR.

Weekly updates on the number of infections and deaths at the facility:

1. On a weekly basis, the Mather TCU staff will also include a cumulative update of the following for all patients and authorized family members and guardians:
 - The number of patients and staff with new positive infection/tests of COVID-19 in the last 7 days;
 - The occurrence of three or more patients or staff with new onset of respiratory symptoms occurring within 72 hours of each other in the last 7 days.
 - Deaths at the facility caused by the pandemic infectious disease.
 - If there are no cases to report of any of the above, the message will reflect that as well.

Access to Free Remote Videoconferencing:

Mather TCU offers free Wi-Fi to all patients in the facility. Patients and families can access videoconferencing via their own smartphones by connecting to the Mather TCU Wi-Fi network and utilizing Face Time, WhatsApp or Skype.

Associated Policies:

- COVID-19/Pandemic Disease Patient/Family Administration Notification and Communications

II. INFECTION PROTECTION PLAN:

The Northwell Health Mather Hospital Transitional Care Unit will institute an infection prevention plan to help ensure the health and safety of patients and staff. The following are the components and associated policies of the Infection Prevention Plan:

Plan for readmission of patients to the facility after hospitalization:

If a patient has been hospitalized without being given a bed-hold, the patient shall be readmitted to the facility immediately upon the first availability of a bed in a semi-private room if the patient:

- a. Requires the services provided by the facility; and
- b. Is eligible for Medicare skilled nursing services.

Plan to reduce transmission in the event there are only one or a few residents with the pandemic disease:

When there are only one or a few residents with pandemic disease:

- Patients will be cohorted on part of a unit, such as at the end of a hallway.
- The patients with pandemic disease will not share a bathroom with residents outside the cohort.
- The area for patients with pandemic disease will be demarcated as a reminder for healthcare personnel (i.e. signage in hallways).
- Patients will be prevented from entering the area of pandemic disease. Actions taken to prevent this will include but not be limited to hallway signage and informing non-pandemic infected residents/patients both verbally and in writing (i.e signage/flyers) of closed areas in the facility.

Determining cohorting needs and capabilities:

On a regular basis, the administration of the Mather TCU will evaluate our capabilities for cohorting patients with pandemic disease. This evaluation will include, but is not limited to, current census, availability of open beds/units, clinical capabilities, pandemic disease needs and requirement, and staffing levels. If it is determined that Mather TCU cannot set up cohort areas or can no longer sustain cohorting efforts, the Administrator will notify the regional and county offices of the Department of Health.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Supply:

Based on New York State requirements, Mather Transitional Care Unit will maintain a 60-day supply of PPE in combination of on-hand at the facility and stored at the Northwell Health Integrated Distribution Center (IDC) located in Bethpage.

Mather TCU has established a minimum supply trigger point of ten (10) days of PPE on hand of in-facility storage at which time Northwell IDC will be contacted for delivery. This trigger point will consider sufficient time to cover the request processing and approval as well as delivery and loading/unloading of supplies. The Northwell IDC maintains a minimum of a 50 day supply of PPE for Mather TCU based on the greater of the positivity rates above.

The Northwell Health IDC operates 24 hours/day, 7 days/week. If there is an emergent need for PPE, the Executive Director/Designee will contact the IDC Emergency Number at 646-772-3597. Delivery will be made by the IDC to the facility within 6 hours of the request 7 days/week, 365 days/year. In addition to the Administrator, the Director of Nursing, Materials Operations Assistant, and Assistant Nurse Managers are authorized to place emergency orders to the IDC.



Mather TCU recognizes that the 60-day supply that was established is based on positivity rates during the peak of COVID-19 during the initial surge and resurgence in New York. Supply numbers may fluctuate during another resurgence of COVID-19. Mather TCU will be in contact with the Northwell IDC to adjust the PPE supply levels to maintain the 60 day supply requirement as needed. In addition, another pandemic crisis in the future may require different types and amounts of PPE to be utilized. Mather TCU will work closely with the Northwell Health Emergency Operations Center (EOC), Northwell Health Office of Procurement, The New York State Department of Health and the Suffolk County Health Department to determine the PPE requirements as they arise during a future pandemic.

PPE will be utilized for patients and staff to continue to provide services and support in our facility. PPE supplies to be maintained on site and at the Northwell IDC include, but are not limited to:

- N95 respirators
- Face shields
- Eye protection
- Gowns/isolation gowns
- Gloves
- Procedure Masks
- Sanitizer and disinfectants in accordance with current EPA Guidance

Associated Policies:

- COVID-19/Pandemic Disease PPE Procurement
- SNF Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Management Guidelines
- Glove Utilization
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Donning and Doffing
- Hand Hygiene
- COVID-19 Personnel Vaccination Program
- COVID-19/Pandemic Disease: Visitation
- Environmental Services

III. PLAN FOR PRESERVING A PATIENT'S PLACE AT THE FACILITY WHEN HOSPITALIZED

If a patient has been hospitalized without being given a bed-hold, the patient shall be readmitted to the facility immediately upon the first availability of a bed in a semi-private room if the patient:

- a. Requires the services provided by the facility; and
- b. Is eligible for Medicare skilled nursing services.

IV. PLAN FOR PROVIDING ACCESS TO NYS LTC OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM

All new admissions to the facility are provided with contact information of the NYS LTC ombudsman program. This is provided at no cost to the patient.

Associated Policies:

- LTC Ombudsman