

*(sent bcc: on behalf of Seth J. Karp, MD)*

Dear Colleagues,

COVID-19 update for 3/31/20:

Our shared goals are to care for our patients to the best of our ability, stay safe, and support each other.

1) Situation report:

- a. Capacity: Hospital has available beds (Green). OR has capacity.
- b. Resources: Staffing/blood supplies are adequate. N95 masks: see below.
- c. Surgery Status: OK to operate on necessary cases through Wednesday, 04/01.
- d. COVID-19 census: 25 admitted to MCE 8. 8 ventilated. Vanderbilt Wilson County has 3 in the ICU.

2) PPE in the OR:

- a. Sourcing N95 masks is getting more difficult, with some promised orders not arriving. This should get better over time but right now it is imperative to conserve these masks as much as possible.
- b. We received a very large supply of standard surgical masks.
- c. We are working on protocols to re-sterilize N95 masks and should have more information over the next few days.
- d. Please protect yourself by wearing the approved masks for the procedure you are performing.

3) Surgery:

Please continue to operate on non-elective patients who cannot safely wait for 2-3 months. Please postpone all other cases and re-schedule.

4) Testing:

- a. Current in-house rushed tests can reliably get results within 24 hours (red dot).
- b. Tests sent out can take as long as 5 days or more to result.

Sincere thanks to the many of you communicating ideas for **testing** and **PPE**. Please keep the ideas coming. These are two of the major workstreams in the hospital right now. We are working on rapid testing modalities, antibody testing, and additional vendors. We are also working on getting additional N95 masks or equivalent. The market for masks seems uncoordinated and unreliable and we are working through this as best we can.

My cell is 615-417-9750 if you need me.

Seth