



News Release

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**CCH Issues New Precautionary Measures to Prevent Spread of COVID-19 Including
New Visitor Protocols, a Reduced Volunteer Presence and Event Cancellations**

For Immediate Release

(COLUMBUS, Neb.) – Columbus Community Hospital is actively working with agency partners to prepare for, prevent and control the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) in the area.

As part of these efforts, the hospital has issued expanded screening for visitors, restricted building access, reduced its volunteer presence and cancelled some events.

Effective Friday, March 13, CCH expanded its screening protocols to include anyone entering the hospital through the main or emergency department entrance. Anyone who enters through these entrances who is not badged as an employee, volunteer, medical staff, student or contracted CCH security team member (i.e. visitors, vendors, sales representatives, etc.) will be asked the following screening questions:

- Have you been in contact with someone with a confirmed case of coronavirus?
- Have you recently traveled to China, Italy, South Korea, Iran, Japan, Hong Kong, Europe, California, Washington state or New York state? and/or
- Do you have the following symptoms: cough, fever or difficulty breathing?

Visitor screening will be supported by language translation resources at both locations. Once a visitor is screened, they will be asked to wear a visitor badge during the duration of their visit at the main hospital.

On Wednesday, March 4, CCH started screening all visitors to its medical clinics. These screenings will continue with the updated travel list as noted above.

Also, effective at 8:30 p.m., Friday, March 13, CCH will restrict building access to the hospital entrance south of the cafeteria adjacent to the connective tunnel to the Healthpark Medical Office Building. This will now require employee or medical staff access.

Additionally, on Friday, March 13, visitors to the Maternal Child Health Department will be restricted to the patient (mother) and one support person.



In other precautionary measures, CCH has made the following volunteer reductions and event cancellations:

- Beginning Friday, March 13, aside from information desk, guide, registration information desk, surgery waiting and Gift Shop volunteers, all other volunteer shifts have been cancelled until further notice.
- Beginning Friday, March 13, the Gift Shop will close at 5 p.m., Monday to Friday and be closed Saturday to Sunday, until further notice. Accordingly, all evening and weekend volunteers have been called off until further notice.
- Beginning Friday, March 13, volunteers scheduled at the information desk after 5 p.m., Monday to Friday and all-day Saturday to Sunday, have been called off until further notice.
- Effective Wednesday, March 11, all VolunTEEN shifts have been cancelled until further notice.
- The Book & Gift Sale scheduled for Friday, March 13, has been cancelled.

For general information about the coronavirus call 211.

Community members who have visited the travel areas of concern or believe they may have had contact with someone with coronavirus should call the East Central District Health Department 2019 Novel Coronavirus Hotline. For English, call: 402-562-8960. For Spanish, call: 402-562-8963.

Additional coronavirus information is available on the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html> and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services website: <http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx>.

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