



Atlantic Health System Prepares for Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

As the media coverage of Novel Coronavirus (now called COVID-19) continues to evolve, we want to assure our patients and communities that we are working closely with local, state and federal public health agencies, as well as our own health care professionals, to assure that Atlantic Health System is prepared.

As always, Atlantic Health System's top priority is the safety of our patients, communities and health care professionals. Our expert clinicians regularly care for patients with severe respiratory illnesses and other infectious diseases. They are well trained and follow specific procedures using all the tools and techniques in place to protect themselves, including the use of personal protective equipment (PPE). We are drawing on this experience as we continue to prepare and address key issues, including the early recognition and isolation of any patient identified as being high risk for COVID-19.

We remind all members of our community that there are everyday preventative actions they can take to help limit the spread of respiratory viruses, including COVID-19 and flu.

A few common measures the CDC advises for the general public include:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub for at least 20 seconds
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Avoid close contact (6 feet) with people who appear to have a respiratory infection

It is also important that if you are having symptoms, you call ahead of your visit to the doctor to communicate travel history and symptoms before arriving, enabling the provider to determine the best setting for you to receive care.

Finally, it is critical that our communities know where to obtain the most accurate and current information from credible sources. The [New Jersey Department of Health](#) has a **24-hour hotline at 1-800-222-1222**, where trained healthcare professionals are standing by to answer questions about COVID-19. The [CDC](#) and NIH are also excellent sources for the latest information.

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