Green County Leaders: A Year of Adaptability

Responses to Questions:
Update & Call to Action Regarding COVID-19

Information as of November 16, 2020

Note: The questions below came up during the November Green County Leaders session on Leadership & COVID-19. Responses to the questions below are from Green County Public Health and Monroe Clinic.

How many beds does Monroe Clinic Have?
Monroe Clinic is licensed for 95 inpatient beds. Due to the state waiver we are allowed to exceed that number, but our ability to do that is dependent upon the availability of staff.

How far are people having to go for hospital beds?
That distance patients have to travel varies every day. We have seen 75 miles travel.

How far has Monroe Clinic transported a patient?
We have been fortunate that the majority of patients have been able to be transported to Madison, but at least one patient had to transport to Chicago for care.

For those with elective procedures scheduled, would you recommend delaying those due to healthcare capacity?
We evaluate every day which procedures should be delayed based upon bed and services availability. So far we have been able to shift elective surgeries just a few days and still accommodate the need for care

What, specifically, can be done to increase workplace safety?
 This is up to each individual. As the slides stated: Masking, Social Distancing, Disinfecting and Hand Sanitizing are key. A resource I have used with worksites is:
https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p02787.pdf

How helpful are glasses or eye coverings?

Glasses and eye coverings are effective for potential high risk exposures. Our staff are wearing eye coverings for all direct patient contacts.

Is the "what you can do to stop the spread" slide available?
Yes, Victoria will share the PDF

Are others out there rotating office staff? For example, not having full staff in every day, to minimize risks?
We encourage those who can do their work from home to do so. The majority of our work is in direct patient care so that is not usually an option. We are using Telehealth visits significantly more than in the past to decrease the chances of exposure both for our staff and our patients whenever possible.

How are local government staff doing since the election? Any tracking of this?
Green County Public Health is not conducting this specific data.

Is the Holiday Guidance Slide available on the Green County Health website to share to others?
In the PDF that Victoria will share.

Is it safe to gather with family or friends who have had COVID-19 and are recovered?
So far we believe it is safe if the person's infection has been less than 90 days.

Where and when are the best places to get tested?
If you have symptoms of COVID 19 call your primary care provider. If you have been exposed to someone who tested positive or have symptoms you can also get tested at Green County Community Testing site https://gcpublichealth.org/covid-getting-tested/ or other community testing locations. Or https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/community-testing.htm

Will contact tracers leave a message?
Yes they will leave a voicemail message indicating that they are with a Public Health Department and will leave a call back phone number.

Any explanations why kids 0-9 case count is low?
Less testing is being done on this age group.

Have any county nursing home residents needed hospitalization? Yes.

Why is Wisconsin doing so much worse than other states?
RoAnn's opinion is the politicization of the pandemic has been a factor.

Governor Evers issued a new executive order last night [Tuesday, November 10, 2020]. Can someone address this?
On November 10, Governor Evers issued Executive Order #94(link is external) which lists new measures to stop the spread of COVID-19. This order advises Wisconsinites to stay home, use extra precautions if they have to leave their home, and adopt good public health practices. Businesses are also encouraged to take further steps to protect workers, customers, and the surrounding community