

The following is an update from the Hackensack Meridian *Health* COVID-19 Command Center for **March 24, 2020.**

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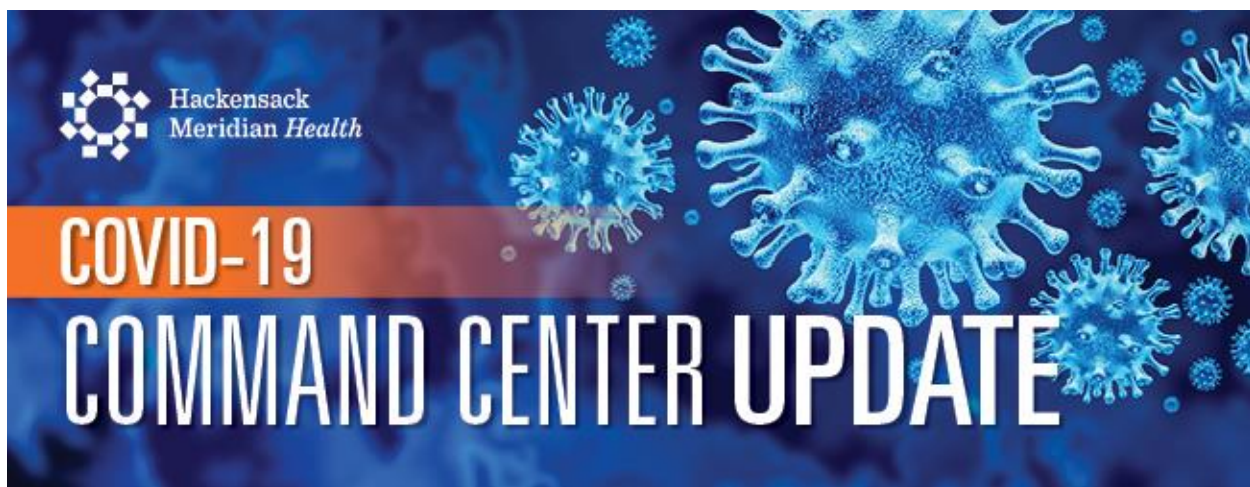
### **New: PPE Concerns and Questions**

HMH recognizes the concerns team members have about the availability of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). The network is exploring multiple ways to conserve supplies and obtain additional ones that meet clinical standards. Below please see HMH's policy on personal PPE as well as PPE donations and new re-use FAQs.

### **HMH Contingency Policy for Use of Personal Face Masks or N95 Respirators**

HMH has received requests to use one's own face mask or N95. On a **temporary basis** in order to help conserve supplies, HMH will allow personal face masks or N95s based on the following rules:

1. Face masks
  - a. Must be approved by hospital command center for use
  - b. Must be made of stretch material
  - c. Must be 3-ply
  - d. Must be disposable
  - e. Cannot be made of fabric or cloth
  - f. [Must follow HMH masking policy](#)
  - g. Must be discarded at end of day
2. N95 Respirators
  - a. Must be approved by hospital command center for use
  - b. Must meet the NIOSH requirement that the respirator blocks at least 95 percent of very small (0.3 micron) particles. Manufacturer documentation of NIOSH compliance is needed
  - c. Personal air purifying respirators are not allowed
  - d. [N95 respirator use must follow HMH masking policy](#). N95 respirator use is only allowed in rooms of COVID-19 positive patients or COVID-19 PUIs who are either critically ill or undergoing an aerosolization procedure.



- e. N95s must follow reuse protocol (see link above) and be stored in a labeled paper bag on site
- f. N95s are not to be taken home after use
- 3. Tyvek suites
  - a. Are not allowed in any area unless designated by HMH

When the supply of either or both items is restored, HMH will have the right to rescind the use of personal masks or N95 respirators.

### **Securing and Donating PPE**

HMH's Materials Management and Purchasing teams have been working tirelessly to secure personal protective equipment (PPE) for team members. In just the last week, the Purchasing team has secured **2.5 million** 3-ply surgical masks in support of HMH's universal masking guidelines. They've also received large donations of PPE from Goldman Sachs, Unilever and Prism. These donations have added up to **tens of thousands of face masks and N95 respirators** currently in use throughout HMH. Meanwhile, Materials Management is also closely tracking PPE across the network, coordinating distribution and ensuring every hospital has the appropriate amount of supplies based upon HMH's current supply.

As you know, requests for PPE donations are spreading across social media. Donations, no matter how small, can add up to make a difference. This is why HMH is joining the state's call and asking community members who wish to donate supplies to email [ppedonations@njsp.org](mailto:ppedonations@njsp.org). The state's Office of Emergency Management is coordinating donations on behalf of health care providers throughout the state and is best equipped to organize this effort, enabling our Materials Management and Purchasing teams to focus on securing supplies for our team members.

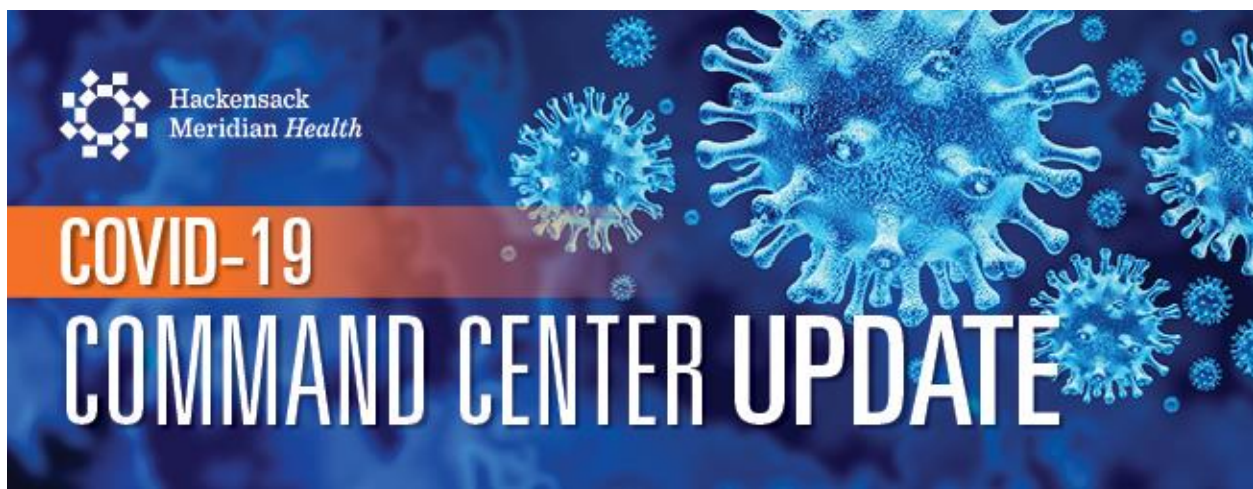
### **N95 and Face Shield/Goggle Re-Use FAQs**

To help clarify questions around the recently issued [PPE re-use policy](#), please see new [N95 and Face Shield/Goggle re-use FAQs](#).

### **New: Infection Prevention Contingency Policy for Contact and Airborne Precautions for Non-COVID-19 Patients**

Due to the stress COVID-19 is putting on hospital capacity and PPE, HMH's Infection Prevention team is modifying isolation guidelines for non-COVID-19 patients. These modifications will increase availability of single private rooms and conserve PPE supplies. To view the contingency policy and accompanying grid, [please click here](#).

Please note, Hospital Infection Prevention Departments and Hospital Epidemiologists will have the authority to modify isolation precautions ordered. The contingency policy's list is not all



inclusive. For infections or organisms not listed, please refer to your current hospital infection prevention policy or contact your hospital Infection Prevention Department.

### **New: Childcare Needs Survey**

To assist health care workers and their families, HMH is partnering with the New Jersey Hospital Association (NJHA) on a new childcare needs survey. The collected information will be shared with the Governor's Office to help develop plans designed to assist health care workers during this time of school and childcare center closures due to COVID-19.

Team members with childcare needs are asked to take the survey here as soon as possible:

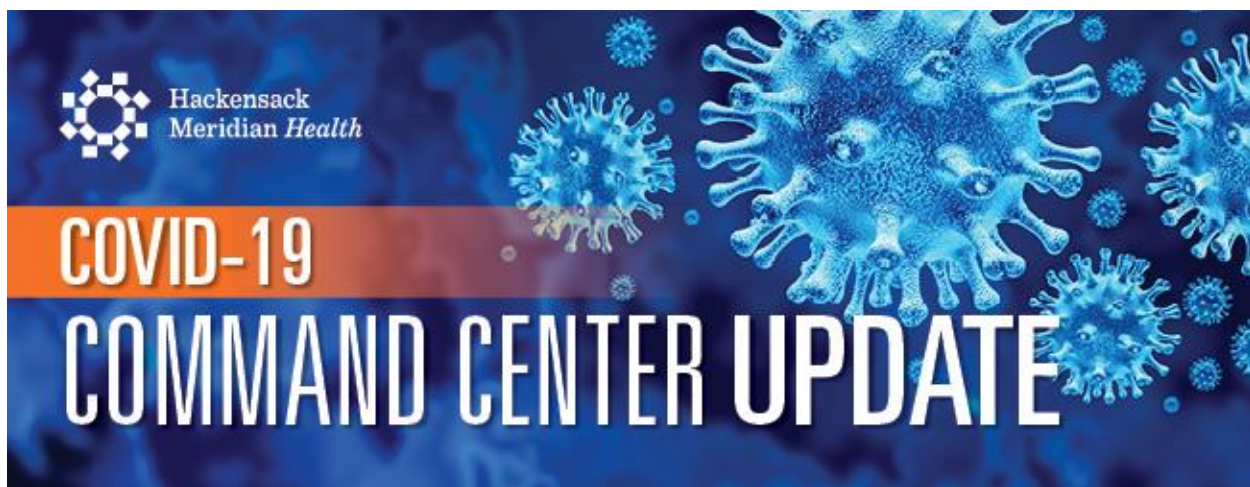
[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/hr\\_childcare](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/hr_childcare).

### **Update: Join Today's COVID-19 Webinar**

Have COVID-19 questions? Join this week's COVID-19 webinars. The webinars will be held on Tuesday and Thursday from 12 p.m. – 1 p.m. Please note, the webinar will only be available for the **first 5,000 team members** who log in. Please only log in with one device (do not use your phone and computer). If you miss the webinar, a recording of the webinar will be posted to the COVID-19 resource page.

Tuesday's webinar will be led by Daniel Varga, M.D., chief physician executive, Theresa Brodrick, RN, chief nurse executive and Nancy R. Corcoran-Davidoff, chief experience and human resources officer. Thursday's webinar will be led by Theresa. Please find the webinar details below. You can also find these webinar instructions on the [COVID-19 resource homepage](#):

- 1) [Access the meeting directly through your web browser](#)
- 2) Laptop paired with room system (Best Experience)
  - a) Dial: 199.48.152.152 in the room system.
  - b) Go to <https://primetime.bluejeans.com/a2m/live-event/ufkrpbbe/room-system/>
  - c) Enter the pairing code displayed on your room system screen into your browser.
- 3) Room System
  - a) Dial: bjn.vc or 199.48.152.152 in the room system.
  - b) Enter Meeting ID: 853566173 and Passcode: 2437
- 4) Joining via a mobile device?
  - a) Open this link: <https://primetime.bluejeans.com/a2m/live-event/ufkrpbbe>
  - b) Download the app if you don't have it already.
  - c) Enter event ID: ufkrpbbe



### **Reminder: Occupational Health Call Centers**

Occupational Health has set up the following call centers to assess team member COVID-19 risk for travel, community, or work-related exposures.

- North Occupational Health Call Center: 551-996-8663 (Staffed from 8 a.m. – 9 p.m.)
- Central and South Occupational Health Call Center: 732-897-3800 (Staffed from 7 a.m. – 9 p.m.)

If you need assistance with emergent team member issues:

- North Occupational Health phones are forwarded to the HUMC Command Center from 9 p.m. – 8 a.m.
- Central and South Occupational Health: 732-962-8029 will be answered by the on-call physician from 9 p.m. – 11 p.m.

### **New: HMM Exchanging Records in Epic to help Patients Nationwide**

HMM is now instantaneously exchanging patient data across Epic's national health care community. For example, if an HMM patient shows up in a Kaiser Permanente facility in California, their HMM Epic record – including allergies, medications, problems, and immunizations – will be available to the Kaiser Permanente clinician. This means if a patient has been diagnosed and treated for asthma at HMM, that clinical information will be received and available for review by the Kaiser Permanente clinician.

Between 12 a.m. – 12 p.m. on Sunday, 132 records were pulled from HMM before real-time record exchange was enabled. This Monday, after enabling real-time record exchange, **2,956 records** were pulled from HMM, including requests from systems as far away as California's Stanford Health Care, Boston's Partners in Health and Tampa General Hospital.

### **Reminder: HMM Blood Drives**

Blood donations are critically needed during emergencies like this one. [Click here to see](#) where and when the blood drives are taking place. Appointments are recommended, but walk-ins are welcome.