MEMORANDUM

TO: All Employees and Physicians
FROM: David K. Culberson, Chief Executive Officer
RE: SJGH COVID-19 Update

I want to take time to thank all of you for your tremendous effort and accomplishment at meeting the needs of our community during this public health emergency. More than 1,800 employees of San Joaquin General Hospital and San Joaquin County Clinics have demonstrated once again what a significant contribution we make in providing essential healthcare to those during their time of need.

I'll be providing updates to you several times a week to keep you informed about current and planned activities. A few of the important areas today include:

COVID-19 Patient Volume
Positive Inpatients: 7, 3 in ICU and 4 on 2D
Persons Under Investigation (PUI) awaiting COVID-19 test results: 12 inpatients and Emergency Department patients.
SJGH had one death of a positive COVID-19 patient today.

Inpatient Surge Plans
Last month Governor Newsom asked all general acute care hospitals to plan to increase their inpatient capacity by a minimum of 40% to meet the surge demand that is expected in California over the next several weeks. Today, he asked all hospitals to plan to add as many additional beds throughout their facilities as possible. SJGH currently has plans to add 103 additional beds if needed: 21 on A4, 23 in the old NICU, 23 on T3 and 15 on T2 (all in the Towers Building), 14 in the PACU and 7 in Short Stay Surgery. An additional 24 in Health Center East and 20 in the tent adjacent to the Towers will be set up on cots provided by San Joaquin County Emergency Services Agency. Many of the rooms in the Towers building are ready to accommodate patients and the tent will be fully equipped if needed in the future.

SJGH now has a total of 47 ventilators that have had the requisite preventive maintenance performed and are ready for use. A substantial supply of IV poles, pumps and tubing have been brought back into service if needed from SJGH’s supply that was recently replaced by the recently acquired Alaris system.
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

PPE has been an issue nationwide over the past several months and SJGH has been no exception. As of today, SJGH has an adequate supply of N95 respirators in both small and regular sizes, the yellow Technol masks and isolation gowns. The outlook for blue surgical masks and the mask/visor used in the Operating Room is not as robust. As such, cloth masks are being encouraged to be used in non-patient care areas to retain the supply of the manufactured items for employees involved in direct patient care.

SJGH is following CDC and California Department of Public Health guidelines by providing N95 respirators and PPE to all employees involved in aerosolizing procedures and in providing direct care to COVID-19 positive patients. Current usage of N95 masks and isolation gowns is being monitored daily to determine the current burn rate and to project how long the inventories of these important PPEs will last. SJGH’s Infection Control Practitioner, Martha Bognot, R.N., and Director of Education, Kristi Bahr, R.N and her staff, are available to answer any questions you may have about proper use of PPE.

COVID-19 Testing

San Joaquin County Public Health is open seven days a week to process COVID-19 samples for SJGH inpatients, Emergency Department patients and SJGH employees. Turn-around-times from Public Health are generally same day for samples sent in the morning and the next day for those sent in the afternoon. Quest Labs is being used for the drive through service offered in the Ambulatory Care Services area Monday through Saturday. Those results are turning around in one to three days. As of April 1, 2020, SJGH had 14 positives of the total resulted 271 patients (inpatient, outpatient and Emergency Department), a 4.8% positive rate. Yesterday, SJGH lab received a module that is being added to the Cepheid analyzer so COVID-19 tests can be run in-house. It is anticipated the SJGH testing will begin within 10 days following education of lab staff and test validation.

Essential Services

SJGH employees have been deemed to be essential employees providing essential services. In accordance with action taken this past Tuesday by the Board of Supervisors, all employees working to provide essential services from March 30, 2020 through the pay period ending May 24, 2020 will receive a five percent supplemental pay for all qualifying hours worked during this public health crisis. Additional correspondence will be coming from Human Resources soon.

Thank You!

I’d like to express my sincere thanks to all of you for what you have done and will do during these challenging times. I’d also like to pass along thanks and recognition from our Board of Supervisors and County Administrator, Monica Nino, to each of you. Your contributions and commitment to our community are tremendous. Once again, thanks for what you do, keep up the good work and let me know if I can provide any additional information or answer any questions you may have.

DKC:az