



# MARTHA'S VINEYARD HOSPITAL

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Martha's Vineyard Hospital to Implement Tighter Precautionary Measures to Protect Workers from COVID-19 Virus**

Oak Bluffs, MA. (March 12, 2020) – As the central provider to care of our community Martha's Vineyard Hospital (MVH) is acting out of an abundance of caution to avoid the potential exposure of the coronavirus to our healthcare workers and for the protection of our patients and residents of Windemere (WNR). While these measures may seem extreme, given our unique circumstances (the ONLY Hospital on Island and a vulnerable elder population of residents at WNR), we feel it is our duty to our mission and to those we serve to do so. We hope the community will agree and bear with us with cooperation and understanding that these are necessary measures to take. Overall, these steps are to minimize non-medical access to the facility that is not directly patient care related. We emphasize, it is BUSINESS AS USUAL for any emergency, elective, and regular outpatient care at this time and we also want to emphasize, there has not been a positive case identified at the Hospital or on Island to date. These are purely precautionary measures to ensure the continuity of care as our mission and duty of care to our community.

The following measures will be enforced as of 7am on Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> and will be re-evaluated on Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>:

- The Cafeteria will be closed to the public and will serve Employees only with ID badges.
- Use of the hospital facility for meetings other than direct internal business or patient care meetings will not be permitted.
- Patients will be limited to one visitor at a time. Exceptions may be determined on a case-by-case basis.
- Patient visiting hours have been revised to end at 8pm with some unique exceptions.

- No group meetings outside of hospital employees will be allowed to use MVH or WNR conference space.
- Entrances around the perimeter of the hospital will be locked at 6pm. From 6pm until 7am, access will be permitted through the emergency department entrance only.
- There will be no public access afterhours for use of restrooms, ATM machines, vending machines, etc.
- Enhanced screening of any visitor at any time could occur by any staff member or security.
- Windemere has canceled all outside entertainment groups and volunteers.
- Windemere access will be restricted to the main two Windemere entrances only and utilize the video doorbell. Screening will be conducted before allowing access to the resident floor.
- We ask that any visitor at any time refrain from being on the premises if they are showing signs of a cold, sneezing or coughing etc. without masks and simply continue to use good common sense and etiquette regarding handwashing to prevent the spread of germs.

We regret that we must take these measures however, it is with your interest in mind. We are the people who take care of the people on this Island. Bear with us as we try to stay healthy to be here when you might need us most. Thank you for your cooperation during this busy time.

We continue to encourage the public to follow Martha's Vineyard Hospital on social media and click on the yellow banner on our homepage labeled "Coronavirus Updated from MVH" for reliable and accurate information. For more general information regarding the coronavirus, please refer to the [Centers for Disease Control](#) (CDC) and state and local public health officials.

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