

# PROJECT PATIENT CARE-ORG

Newsletter - June 2020



**We Care About You,  
Our Loved Ones,  
Neighbors,  
Community,  
Country, and World**

**That is why  
WE WEAR OUR MASK**

Dear Project Patient Care Community,

We Wear Our Mask and join with everyone in Wearing the Mask as we truly believe that it is a critical way in which we can help to stop the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and contribute to the well-being of everyone. Additionally, we keep at least 6 feet away from others; wash hands regularly; don't touch our face; and avoid crowds.

A few updates since our May Newsletter:

- Several videotapings and NY Times article featuring the work of Project Patient Care
- CDC's New Vulnerable Population for acquiring COVID-19
- Visitation with Nursing Homes Residents in Outside Settings in Illinois
- CMS Expected to Extend Public Health Emergency Rules

## PROJECT PATIENT CARE (PPC) Videos, Webinars, Media

June has been a very busy month in working with many groups on video tapings, live webinars, and preparing material for dissemination.

The New York Times featured an article on June 30 on Project Patient Care's Guide, ["Recommendations for and by Patients, Families, and Caregivers for Elective Surgeries and Invasive Procedures During COVID-19 Pandemic"](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/30/well/live/surgery-or-medical-procedure-what-to-know-before-you-go.html?referringSource=articleShare). Reporter Judith Graham of Kaiser Health News, highlighted the concerns and expectations patients have in returning for healthcare services and the issues that healthcare providers need to address for patients to return. The PPC Guide was co-developed with patients, families, and caregivers. NY Times article *"Surgery or Medical Procedure? What to Know Before You Go"*  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/30/well/live/surgery-or-medical-procedure-what-to-know-before-you-go.html?referringSource=articleShare>

***"Patient and Family Engagement During COVID-19"***  
Maryland Patient Safety Center

**"COVID-19 Update: Addressing Social Disparities"**

Patient Safety Movement Foundation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s9BuzDq9a5E&feature=youtu.be>

Co-Presented by:

Donna Prosser, DNP, RN, NE-BC, FACHE, BCPA, Chief Clinical Officer, Patient Safety Movement Foundation

Dr. Marcus Robinson, PhD, Collaboraction

Patricia Merryweather-Arges, MA, Project Patient Care

Daria B. Terrell, M.D., St. Bernard Hospital and Health Care Center

Ron Wyatt, MD, MHA, MCIC Vermont

**PPC, H2PI, and Consumers Advancing Patient Safety Joint COVID-19 Series:**

Long Term Facilities - Part I Pat Merryweather-Arges

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ACSB6EnN2F8>

Long Term Facilities - Part II Swati Gaur, MD, Medical Director at New Horizons, Georgia

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqt3-Qvl8eA&t=10s>

COVID-19 Testing - Moira Larsen, MD, MBA, MedStar Health

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mE6053dCqEk>

Health Equity - Ron Wyatt, MD, MHA, MCIC Vermont

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1rfhxX8LKAY>

The Important Role of Telehealth in Mental Health - Wendy Hayum-Gross, Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor, Grow Wellness Group in Naperville

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OKoMOHOyw8s>

Elective Procedures in Hospitals - Kellie Goodson, MS, CPXP, Vizient; Pat Merryweather-Arges, MA, PPC

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oYBagqu3a78>

Preparing for Hospital Visit - Rosie Barthel, Patient Advocate

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ih0GVGf\\_HW8&list=PL85nvxr3ClzPJichPfeCOcrNSGWzU6mo7](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ih0GVGf_HW8&list=PL85nvxr3ClzPJichPfeCOcrNSGWzU6mo7)

[v=Ih0GVGf\\_HW8&list=PL85nvxr3ClzPJichPfeCOcrNSGWzU6mo7](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ih0GVGf_HW8&list=PL85nvxr3ClzPJichPfeCOcrNSGWzU6mo7)

***Finding Hope and Meaning Through Stories in COVID-19 Pandemic Series***

MedStar Health Institute for Quality and Safety - with 11 healthcare leaders throughout the series:

How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected you personally and professionally?

What stories have you heard or experienced that are COVID-19 related and you can't forget?

What will this teach us for the future of healthcare?

What technology or innovations look transformative for the future as a result of COVID-19?

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL85nvxr3ClzPPgQN-be5Wh9jzYcGLUjpR>

***Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene During COVID-19 Pandemic in Developing Countries***

Pat Merryweather-Arges facilitated panel discussions on two days in June with leaders from around the world including USAID, UNICEF, Malawi, Kenya, Ethiopia, Eritrea, South Sudan, Guatemala, and India. It was amazing to hear the innovative approaches and how communities all came together to protect and save each other. The recordings should be available by next newsletter and will be shared.

Pat Merryweather-Arges continued to do short videos for approximately 12,000 Rotarians in Illinois on COVID-19 updates and developments.

**Updated CDC Information on Who Is at Risk for COVID-19**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has updated the list of persons with certain conditions that elevate their risk for severe COVID-19 illness. As CDC and

others learn more about COVID-19, the list will be updated.

"People of any age with the following conditions are at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19:

- Chronic kidney disease
- COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)
- Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from solid organ transplant
- Obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 30 or higher)
- Serious heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies
- Sickle cell disease
- Type 2 diabetes mellitus

Children who are medically complex, who have neurologic, genetic, metabolic conditions, or who have congenital heart disease are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 than other children.

COVID-19 is a new disease. Based on what we know at this time, people with the following conditions might be at an increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19:

- Asthma (moderate-to-severe)
- Cerebrovascular disease (affects blood vessels and blood supply to the brain)
- Cystic fibrosis
- Hypertension or high blood pressure
- Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from blood or bone marrow transplant, immune deficiencies, HIV, use of corticosteroids, or use of other immune weakening medicines
- Neurologic conditions, such as dementia
- Liver disease
- Pregnancy
- Pulmonary fibrosis (having damaged or scarred lung tissues)
- Smoking
- Thalassemia (a type of blood disorder)
- Type 1 diabetes mellitus"

CDC has provided the evidence behind these lists - available at

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/evidence-table.html>

## Visitation with Nursing Home Residents in Outside Settings in Illinois

Nursing home residents can have visitors if the nursing home is compliant with state rules and guidelines regarding visits. Please note that nursing homes are preparing for visitors and some may take longer in their preparations. Visitors should expect the following:

- Mask wearing and social distancing at all times
- Checking for fever or other symptoms
- Visits are outside and can be under a canopy, tent, or open air
- 2 visitors per resident with time and re-visits established by nursing homes
- Visitors must contact nursing home and schedule visit in advance to arrange an agreeable time for the nursing home, resident, and visitors
- Nursing home staff will be present during the visit to ensure compliance with masking, safe distancing, and resident needs

In Illinois, as reported by nursing homes to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) weekly data base, several nursing homes are experiencing staffing shortages and some with PPE shortages, so those nursing homes may take longer to open up outside visitation.

Keep in mind if you have a loved one in a nursing home, they have been on lockdown for 110 days and many have had all of their meals and snacks in their room with reduced opportunity to move around. So mobility issues may have arisen which it is why it is also helpful to have staff outside during the visitation.

For more information on the outside visitation, please go to

## CMS Is Expected to Extend COVID-19 Emergency Rules

The current Public Health Emergency (PHE) policies and rules are set to expire on July 25. The Department of Health and Human Services' leaders have expressed optimism that the PHE will be extended another 90 days - which would mean an extension to about the third week in October.

The policies most likely to be extended include:

- Medicare inpatient 20% add-on payment for COVID-19 patients
- Insurers cover COVID-19 testing without cost-sharing
- Increased federal Medicaid matching rates, and
- waivers of telehealth restrictions.

Some changes during this COVID-19 pandemic fall under a separate Stafford Act national emergency declaration staying active. The policies under Stafford include CMS Medicaid waivers that allow bypassing some prior authorization requirements, temporarily enrolling out-of-state providers, allowing care to be delivered in alternative settings, and pausing fair hearing requests and appeal times.

### Resources

There are many resources readily available from international, national, state, county/city government agencies. Typically resources are centralized with most in state and city departments of public health.

A few links:

**World Health Organization** - <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** - [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

**Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)** -

<https://www.medicare.gov/medicare-coronavirus>

**State of Illinois** - <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/coronavirus/Pages/default.aspx>

**Illinois Department of Public Health** - <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/>

**City of Chicago** - <https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/covid-19/home.html>

**National Association for Healthcare Quality (NAHQ) COVID-19 Quality Resources** -

<https://nahq.org/education/covid-19-resource-center/>



### We Enjoy Hearing from YOU!

Please feel free to contact us at any time as most of the time we are still all working remotely from our homes.

Contact us at:

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Thank you!