

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

March 18, 2020

## **COVID-19 Update from MCHC**

**Madelia, Minn.** – We know there is growing concern as the outbreak and impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) evolves. Ensuring the health, safety and well-being of our patients and caregivers is our top priority - especially at this critical time. Here is what we want you to know:

We are prepared to take care of you and your loved ones. We are closely monitoring updates from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) and the [Minnesota Department of Health](#) (MDH) and are also working with local response teams. The CDC and MDH are still the best resources for information on the spread of the flu and COVID-19. All MCHC caregivers are following COVID-19 prevention and infection control guidelines.

We are in the process of setting up a COVID-19 Call Center at MCHC for local patients to call with questions. This phone will be answered between the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, by qualified medical personnel. When ready, we will announce the launching of the Call Center, and all other pertinent information on our Facebook page and website at [www.mchospital.com](http://www.mchospital.com). MDH has also set up a hotline to call for health questions from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. The MDH hotline phone number is 651.201.3920 or 1.800.657.3903.

MDH announced yesterday that due to a national shortage of COVID-19 laboratory testing materials, the state is forced to adjust its testing criteria to focus on the highest priority specimens, including hospitalized patients. Health care workers and those in congregate living settings such as long-term care will also be given high priority. Minnesota is experiencing a shortage of testing supplies. This means that the MDH labs cannot complete the testing of samples collected from across the state.

All patients who present with undiagnosed fever and/or acute respiratory symptoms (cough, shortness of breath), even those that are not tested, should self-quarantine for 7 days after illness onset, or 72 hours after resolution of fever (without taking fever-reducing medications), and improvement of respiratory symptoms. Patients who are unable to be tested should isolate themselves from household and intimate contacts as much as possible. Household and intimate contacts of these

individuals should limit their activities in public for 14 days after incorporating precautions in the home, and monitor for symptoms.

If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms: fever, cough, difficulty breathing, and have traveled outside of the country or are concerned you have been infected, call your health care provider for guidance. There is no specific treatment or vaccine for COVID-19 at this time. Patients do not need to be examined by a health care provider if their symptoms are mild. We encourage patients with mild symptoms to stay at home, to decrease the possibility of transmitting the virus to others. Drink fluids to stay hydrated. Manage fever by taking acetaminophen or ibuprofen. Contact your medical provider if the fever is uncontrollable with over the counter medications or if you are having trouble breathing. Hospital care needs to be preserved for those who are acutely ill. Calling ahead gives us time to prepare and will help ensure patients get the appropriate treatment as needed.

Please do not bring along additional family members to the emergency room, urgent care or the clinic. If possible, just the patient and a caregiver should be present. Visitor restrictions are in place at the hospital.

We all have a role to play in slowing the spread of COVID-19 in our communities. All Minnesotans are encouraged to limit time spent in locations that do not allow social distancing of six feet per person. By making healthy choices and practicing social distancing, we each can help break the chain of transmission.

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### **About Madelia Community Hospital & Clinic**

Madelia Community Hospital & Clinic is an independent, nonprofit facility staffed by a team of medical professionals that are committed to providing health care of the highest standards to patients in the Madelia area. As a 25-bed acute care hospital, we offer all of the primary health services: Laboratory, Radiology, Physical Therapy, Home Care, Emergency Room/Urgent Care, and Surgical Care. Our attached family medical clinic also provides care for patients in all the seasons of their life. Over the years, we have proactively responded to the changing demands within the health care industry, which has ensured our ability to deliver up-to-date medical services, purchase advanced medical equipment, and provide complete and compassionate care to all who enter our facility.