Return-to-Work Town Hall: Part 2

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Introduction
Part 1 Recap

This meeting is being recorded and will be distributed.

Part 1 Recording available at: https://youtu.be/ipC8Ear7pB0
Today’s Topics

01. COVID-Safe Care & Testing
02. Meeting Employer Needs
03. Safe Work Practices
04. Admin/HR Considerations
Katie Passaretti, MD
Medical Director, Infection Prevention

COVID-Safe Care & Testing Capabilities at Atrium Health
What is COVID-Safe?

• Set of care standards intended to protect patients, visitors and medical staff

• Based on the following principles
  • Ensuring patients get the care they need safely during the COVID-19 pandemic
  • Social distancing
  • Infection prevention cleaning and hand hygiene protocols
  • Minimizing mixing of sick and well
  • Appropriate use of personal protective equipment

• Applies across continuum of care
COVID-Safe Environment

- Enhanced environmental cleaning protocols
- Social distancing
  - Cues to maintain six feet or more in waiting rooms, check-in lines, etc.
  - Text message notification when ready for appointment
  - Electronic tools for check-in
- Temperature and symptom screening upon arrival for patients, visitors and staff
- Visitor restrictions will continue
Hand Hygiene & Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Commitment to hand hygiene
- Mask for all patients, visitors and staff while in an Atrium Health facility
  - Cloth mask from home fine for visitors or patients
  - If one from home not available, we will provide a mask
Atrium Health Virtual Hospital at Home

• Brings excellent care into the home of patients diagnosed with COVID-19
  • Monitoring kit includes blood pressure cuff, oxygen monitor brought to patient’s home
  • Different levels of clinical care dependent on patient’s needs
  • Leverages virtual workforce
  • Minimizes exposure to patients with known COVID-19 in emergency departments, hospitals, etc.
Current State of COVID-19 Testing

- **Diagnosis**
  - Gold standard is upper/lower respiratory specimen swabs/samples on PCR testing platform

- **Serology/Antibody testing**
  - Many products on market with variable performance (Caveat Emptor)
  - Not recommended for diagnosis (takes 7-14 days for antibodies to show up)
  - Still learning about duration of immunity post-COVID
COVID-19 Diagnostic Testing at Atrium Health

- March 3 – First case of COVID-19 diagnosed in NC
- March 11 – Atrium Health Molecular Pathology team had in-house laboratory, developed based on WHO methodology, up and running
- Late March – Atrium Health was one of 30 hospitals and commercial labs who implemented the Roche cobas 8800 SARS-CoV-2 high volume testing platform
- Late April – Added additional COVID-19 PCR platform to further expand testing capacity
Benefits of Atrium Health COVID-19 PCR Diagnostic Testing Approach

• Access to testing earlier
• Able to broaden testing criteria much earlier than many places in the country
• Rapid turn around time (several days shorter than use of a commercial lab)
  • Not dependent on commercial labs with backlogs
  • Turn around time <24 hours (and most commonly <12 hours)
COVID-19 Serologic Testing at Atrium Health

- Atrium Health Core Lab plans to have two COVID-19 serologic platforms in house in next few weeks
  - IgG only
  - IgM and IgG
- Capacity 2,500 - 4,000/day anticipated ultimately if no reagent supply issues
Facing the Future of COVID-19

• We’re in this for a while
• Flexibility is key
• Committed to reviewing trends in community and hospital and pivoting approach as needed
• Will communicate regularly and clearly
Meeting Employer Needs: Screening, Testing and Managing Exposures
Partnering with Employers

COVID-19
We’re in this together

• Understanding needs
• Navigating a fast moving, frequently changing environment
• Providing reliable up-to-date information
• Collaborating to solve for pain points
Screening, Testing & Managing Exposures

Minimizing health risks and providing support for employees returning to work

Coming soon:
- Symptom screening tool
- Management of work-related exposures
- PCR testing and follow-up care
- On-site antibody testing

Questions: Covid19RTW@AtriumHealth.org
Safe Work Practices and Operational Considerations
Safe Work Practices & Operational Considerations

- Screen employees on arrival
- Monitor symptoms
- Plan for exposures
- Prevent the spread
- Protect employees
Monitor Employees for Symptoms

Signs and symptoms

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills *
- Repeated shaking with chills *
- Muscle pain *
- Headache *
- Sore throat *
- New loss of taste or smell *

* Symptoms newly added by CDC
Plan for Exposures

Develop protocols for workforce contact tracing following employee COVID-positive test

- Trace contacts of infected people
- Notify contacts of their exposure
- Monitor contacts
- Support the quarantine of contacts
Prevent the Spread

Support and enforce protocols to prevent the spread

- Social/physical distancing: At least 20-25% of weekly contacts occur at work
  - Remote working whenever possible or feasible
  - Separation of work stations/areas
  - Staggered shifts
  - Maintenance of 6’ distance in common areas
- Good hand hygiene (availability of hand sanitizer/soap/water throughout the workplace)
- Maintaining a disinfected work environment
Protect Employees

Protect workers with personal protective equipment (PPE)

- What is PPE?
- Types of PPE
  - Mask, cloth face covering
  - Gloves
  - Goggles
  - Face shield
  - Gown
- Determining who needs PPE
Protect Employees

Consider accommodations for vulnerable employees such as those with serious underlying health conditions, including:

- High blood pressure
- Chronic lung disease
- Diabetes
- Obesity
- Asthma
- Immunocompromised (e.g., chemotherapy)
Cathy D. Best, MODL
Senior Human Resources Strategic Business Partner

Administrative/HR Considerations
Preparing for Re-entry

- Ensure a safe place to work
- Assess business operations
- Define essential workers
  - Compassion for "non-essential" workers
- Develop individual and group communication
- Seek to understand barriers and challenges
- Set clear expectations
Health & Safety Protocols

- Environment & Space
- Social Distancing
- Alternating Schedules
HR Policies & Practices

- Remote work vs. back to workplace
- Travel and meetings
- Leave of absences
- Attendance
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Ruth Krystopolski, MBA
Senior Vice President, Population Health

Closing/Questions
Follow-up meeting:
*Wednesday, May 20, 3-4 PM*

We will continue to provide employers with guidance.

Where to go for additional information:
Email Covid19RTW@AtriumHealth.org with questions, topic suggestions for the next Town Hall, or to request more information on Atrium Health COVID-19 screening and testing.
Questions?
Thank you.