

CENTRAL MISSISSIPPI HEALTH SERVICES, INC.

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MEMORANDUM

April 5, 2020

To: All CMHS Staff

Cc: Board of Directors

From: Robert Smith, MD
Executive Director



Re: The COVID-19 Pandemic

As health care professionals here at CMHS we are all committed to fulfilling the principles of our mission. It is important that we stay at our posts in order to improve access to quality health care for those we serve and, in so doing, continue to mitigate the health disparities that our patients experience. I applaud you for all you do.

During this time of "Shelter-in-Place" and "Stay-at-Home" orders, CMHS is an essential enterprise. Therefore, we will continue to operate, albeit in a modified fashion, and we all must continue to staff our Clinics. In order to facilitate our continuing to work please know that we are doing everything possible to create a safe and secure environment in which we can continue to provide care to our patients. Even after the COVID-19 crisis has ended there will be fundamental changes in medicine and health care delivery that will persist. So, we must embrace the current changes that we are making as many are likely to stay in place going forward.

Our current efforts include universal masking of all staff (starting three days prior to the Mississippi State Department of Health recommendation of 4/4/20 and today), universal screening of staff and patients entering the clinic, isolation within the Clinic of anyone suspected of SARS-COVID-2 infection, encouraging social distancing and promoting surface sanitization and proper hand cleansing. We have offered universal SARS-COVID-2 testing to all staff and starting Monday, April 6, we will offer drive-by testing. We are pivoting to telehealth where possible. This will help in separating our Clinic and staff from the expected deluge of COVID-19 cases. In addition, please stay home if you experience any symptoms consistent with the COVID-19 syndrome and notify the Medical Director.

Thank you all for your efforts. I am confident that by working together CMHS will survive this crisis and continue to prosper.

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