



PERSHING GENERAL HOSPITAL & NURSING HOME ENACTS HEIGHTENED PRECAUTIONS AND NEW SCREENING METHODS TO ADDRESS COVID-19

Pershing General Hospital continues to monitor coronavirus (COVID-19) and ensure constant readiness by working closely with local, state and federal officials as well as staying informed of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updates.

Because there is concern regarding the spread of coronavirus in Nevada, we have implemented enhanced infection prevention strategies, such as reinforced visitor restrictions and patient screening procedures.

We are committed to patient confidentiality and will not be providing details about patients in our care. Any confirmed cases of coronavirus will be reported to designated state and federal agencies per governmental guidelines.

Beginning March 12, 2020, Pershing General Hospital will enact the following restrictions to help limit coronavirus risk. These procedures, based on recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health and partner hospitals, will help protect our patients, residents, staff and community. These restrictions will remain in effect until further notice.

Patients with Respiratory Symptoms

Respiratory symptoms include cough, shortness of breath, runny nose, sneezing and fever.

Pershing Physician Center (Clinic): If you are experiencing respiratory symptoms and would like to make an appointment, call 775-273-2621 option 1, a screening via the telephone will be completed and further direction will be given. Patients who have been screened by staff and are coming in for their appointment will be instructed to call the Clinic upon arrival and wait in their vehicle until a staff member comes to escort them to a room (if instructed to do so).

Patients presenting for scheduled appointments at the Pershing Physician Center (Clinic) will be assessed for any potential illness during the appointment confirmation telephone call. If a patient has any signs or symptoms of an illness, they will be given instructions prior to the appointment or asked to reschedule.

The Pershing Physician Center (Clinic) entrance will be open during hours of operation with patients with influenza like illnesses being asked to wait in their vehicle for assessment prior to entering. All patients and visitors will be screened upon entrance to the Clinic by the Receptionist.

Emergency Department: If you are experiencing respiratory symptoms, **please call ahead**, our staff will perform respiratory illness screenings over the telephone and further direction will be given to ensure the safety of our patients, staff and community. Call 775-273-2621 ext. 1405.

The Emergency Room will be open 24 hours a day for emergencies with special instructions for patients presenting with influenza like illness. Please press the red button for access.

If an emergent medical condition exists, the patient will be given an isolation mask, asked to use hand sanitizer, will be directed to the emergency department and placed in isolation to be evaluated by the emergency department provider.

If an emergent medical condition does not exist and the patient appears to have mild illness, the patient will be instructed to self-isolate in their homes. If a patient requests testing for COVID-19 and is medically stable with a mild illness, they will be directed to state health authorities for further evaluation.

The hospital's main entrance will be open to patients without influenza like illnesses and visitors Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Limiting Visitation

Hospital Visits

To protect inpatients, we are not allowing visitors at this time unless an extenuating circumstance exists. Approved visitors in an extenuating circumstance will be subject to screening before entering by answering a series of questions about any recent symptoms of respiratory or influenza-like illness and their temperature taken.

Any visitor who is coughing or showing signs of illness will be asked to leave.

Clinic Visits

We are allowing only one person to accompany patients in the Clinic at this time. Please be aware this may change at any time. Access to the Clinic is through their front door.

Long Term Care Visits

To protect our residents, we will not allow visitors in our Long Term Care at this time. All guardians have been notified. If you would like to speak to your loved one and/or ask for an update, please contact the LTC Nurses Desk at 775-273-2621 x1703. We will also do our best to schedule a Skype or Face Time call if you have the apps available.

Screening Protocol

All patients, vendors, contractors and visitors will be screened by staff by answering a series of questions about any recent symptoms of respiratory or influenza-like illness and temperature taken by the Admissions Clerk, ER staff, Physical Therapy staff, Clinic staff, and Business Office staff.

Protecting Yourself

You can protect yourself the same way you would protect against other viruses with a few common-sense practices.

- Wash your hands thoroughly and often. Make sure you are cleaning between your fingers and under your nails
- Use alcohol-based sanitizers when soap and water are not available
- Use disposable tissues when coughing and sneezing; dispose of carefully and promptly. If tissues are not available, direct your cough or sneeze into the crook of your arm/sleeve
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid shaking hands, especially with those who appear to be ill
- Disinfect shared surfaces
- Practice social distancing
- Stay home when you are sick
- Clear and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
- Avoid close contact with anyone who has cold or flu-like symptoms
- If you have fever, cough, gastrointestinal, or respiratory symptoms **please call** prior to entering Pershing General Hospital or Pershing Physician Center

Coronavirus Screening

Patients who have questions or concerns about the coronavirus should call 775-400-0333 for more information.