



Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

(3/16/2020)

COVID-19 screening is being actively utilized at all of our entry points. **We have suspended visitation in residential and acute care programs in order to minimize and mitigate exposure to the virus and we continue to suspend use of our conference space at Evans, Ortiz and Cape Coral locations for after-hours groups.** The lion's share of meetings and scheduled gatherings have been moved to a conference call environment. As previously mentioned, we are identifying ways to temporarily reduce our on-campus footprint to protect the staff that are providing care onsite from exposure, as well as patients.

There are 115 positive cases of COVID-19 in FL with one new in Lee County over the weekend, for a total of five (5) cases in Lee County.

As you may be aware, supplies are in short supply, inclusive of antibacterial wipes and hand sanitizer and the like. Please know that we are working with all of our community partners to secure needed supplies – many organizations are in a similar situation with supplies on back order. We are aggressively pursuing all avenues to obtain and maintain supplies.

We continue to make vital changes to our policies, procedures and organizational processes as we receive guidance and information from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Health Department and local Health Care Coalition. We have scheduled meetings (a number of weekly meetings and webinars) with Central Florida Behavioral Healthcare, Lee County Human and Veteran Services, Lee Health, our sister organizations and a number of stakeholders as we navigate this crisis. We keep them updated to any changes.

We are asking that employees not report to work if they are experiencing fever, cough, shortness of breath and encouraging them to call their primary care provider right away. The Department of Health also has a hotline available 24/7 to answer questions @ 1-866-779-6121. Additionally, if you are interested in seeking general information about COVID-19 - Leehealth.org has a team of infection prevention experts standing by to answer your questions online. Scroll to the bottom of the main page to "Ask the Experts" and someone will assist you.

Remember to:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Stay home when you are sick
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue
- Practice good hand hygiene by washing your hands often, using either soap and water or alcohol-based hand gel for at least 20 seconds
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

(3/13/2020)

The COVID-19 screening tool is being actively utilized at all of our entry points. SalusCare is also working on suspending and severely limiting visitation in residential and acute care programs in order to minimize and mitigate exposure to the virus, and we have suspended use of our conference space at Evans, Ortiz and Cape Coral locations for after-hours groups. The vast majority of meetings and scheduled gatherings have been moved to a conference call environment. Hiring and welcoming of new employees will continue.

We are continuing to make vital changes to our policies, procedures and organizational processes as we receive guidance and information from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Health Department and local Health Care Coalition. We have scheduled meetings (a number of weekly meetings and webinars) with Central Florida Behavioral Healthcare, Lee County Human and Veteran Services, Lee Health, our sister organizations and a number of stakeholders as we navigate this crisis. We keep them constantly updated with changes.

Lee Health is reporting (as of 3/12/2020) that there are no new positive cases in Lee County but they have sent 28 tests to the Florida Department of Health with 11 negative, 14 pending, with one patient being cared for in the hospital, one patient isolating at home and one patient, as previously reported, has died.

We are asking our employees not report to work if they are experiencing fever, cough, shortness of breath and to call their primary care provider right away. The Department of Health also has a hotline available 24/7 to answer questions at 1-866-779-6121. Additionally, if you are interested in seeking general information about COVID-19 - LeeHealth.org has a team of infection prevention experts standing by to answer your questions online. Scroll to the bottom of the main page to “Ask the Experts” and someone will assist you.

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SalusCare will continue to remain vigilant and dedicated to protecting the patients we serve and all of our employees.

(3/11/2020)

SalusCare realizes the continued uncertainty surrounding COVID-19 has led us all to a collective state of vigilance. The SalusCare team has been working diligently and strategically to ensure our clinical programs continue to provide much-needed behavioral healthcare during this time.

SalusCare has begun screening patients for possible symptoms and/or exposure when they present for services using a series of simple questions in conjunction with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

Should a patient present as symptomatic, or if he/she has experienced potential exposure to the virus, the patient will be offered an appointment via telemedicine, or given the opportunity to return, in person, for an appointment at another time. We are taking this measure out of an abundance of caution and to preserve our ability to provide services.

While SalusCare is an adept behavioral healthcare facility, we are not a designated medical facility, nor do we have the ability to serve patients who have acute medical needs or require isolation. We want the public to know that we are working closely with all area healthcare providers, and Lee County, to meticulously follow guidance from the Florida Department of Health and the CDC to preserve patient health and safety, and to limit patient and staff exposure.

Effective at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 17th, SalusCare will temporarily suspend the use of its public meeting space after hours on all campuses. This is in an effort to limit potential exposure to the patients and families who utilize our services, as well as those who reside with us either on a temporary or permanent basis. The organization will also begin to limit visitation and will carefully screen visitors who are offered program entry.

(3/10/2020)

Beginning today (3/10/2020), SalusCare will be utilizing a six question COVID-19 screening tool for all patients entering our outpatient waiting rooms on the Ortiz, Evans, Cape Coral and Lehigh Acres locations. If patients indicate affirmative responses to certain questions, they will be provided a mask and be asked to wait in a designated waiting area. SalusCare nurses will then assess whether the patient's provider can write a re-fill prescription, or if a tele-health appointment can be scheduled for that day, or in the near future.

SalusCare is committed to stopping the spread of COVID-19 and all viruses.

(3/7/2020)

As you are aware, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and our local health department are closely monitoring an outbreak of respiratory illness caused by the Coronavirus named COVID-19.

A multi-disciplinary team at SalusCare is working with the CDC and our health department to stay informed of the latest developments and updates. We are also taking necessary precautions to prepare, thus ensuring the safety of our patients, staff and visitors.

The CDC has the most current information about the virus, including everything you need to know about how it spreads, how it's treated, how to protect yourself and what to do if you get sick. We encourage you to stay informed by visiting the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> or the Lee County Health Department website at <http://lee.floridahealth.gov/>

You can protect yourself from COVID-19 the same ways you protect against the common cold or seasonal flu. Experts recommend the following:

Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

Avoid contact with individuals who have traveled to high-risk countries

Stay home when you are sick, especially if you have respiratory illness symptoms.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.

Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue.

Practice good hand hygiene by washing your hands often, using either soap and water, or alcohol-based hand sanitizing gel for at least 20 seconds.

Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

****This document will be updated as warranted and will reflect the most current information available regarding COVID-19.***