McNair Emergency Department COVID-19 Preparation and Procedures

Do not send any potential coronavirus patients to the Emergency Department for testing and evaluation. The clinic physician should then call on-call Infectious Diseases physician or the Houston Department of Health for further instructions. Listed below are the 24-hour phone numbers for the Department of Health and Harris Country Public Health, as well as a link to the CDC for evaluating persons under investigation. If the patient is stable and not in respiratory distress, then they should be placed in a mask and sent home for home quarantine. It is extremely important to remember, NOT to automatically send suspected cases to the Emergency Department, as this could quickly overload our system and our available resources, limiting the care that we are able to provide to other emergent patients and could potentially cause unnecessary exposure to other patients and staff.

All patients that need to be sent from the clinic to the McNair Emergency Department for any other reason should be given a surgical mask to wear prior to transport downstairs. We will complete our travel screening in the ED upon the patient's arrival and then decide if further precautions are necessary.

If you have a clinic patient that is experiencing respiratory distress and requires emergent evaluation, please call 911 and have the patient sent to BSLMC Main ED. The McNair Emergency Department only has four beds and we cannot admit any patients at our facility, so our ability to flex up care in case of a potential surge of patients is almost non-existent.

Please continue to call the McNair ED physician at (832)354-1164 or the ED main line at (832)354-1150 to discuss any potential patients prior to transporting them down to the Emergency Department.

Harris County Public Health: 713.439.6000 After Hours: 713.755.5050
Houston Health Department: 832.393.5080 (24 hr #)