

All,

Regarding behavioral health inpatients at RIH:

Patients should have already been assessed for any COVID-19 high-risk features prior to being admitted to the inpatient unit. That said, if you are on call and receive a question from staff related to a symptomatic patient (fever, cough, sore throats, SoB), you should:

- 1) Request that the patient put on a mask and isolate in his/her room. Once fully isolated in the room, the patient may take off his/her mask if desired, although it is encouraged the mask remain on.
- 2) Initiate droplet & contact precautions.
- 3) Call Lifespan COVID-19 hotline and follow their direction.
- 4) Have nursing staff communicate with infection control prior to removing any droplet/contact precautions.

Key Phone Numbers:

If you are ever unsure of what to do, there are a few phone numbers to keep in mind:

-Lifespan 24/7 COVID-19 Hotline: **401-606-2245**

-Lifespan Infection Control: **401-444-4773**

-Lifespan Infection Control, after hours: **401-255-2189**

-DoH: **401-222-2577**

-DoH, after hours: **401-276-8046**

Lastly, you did receive a previous email stating that staff use of masks on IP behavioral health units was optional. The original reason for this statement had much to do with specific pediatric behavioral health inpatient sub-populations, and less to do with RIH inpatient units. Staff use of masks **is encouraged** on all RIH behavioral health units. If there are questions or uncertainty, please reach out to me, communicate with your attending directly or contact Dr. Berges.

Thank you,
Dan