

## Jeff Boer

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**From:** Jeff Boer  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 20, 2020 10:02 AM  
**To:** Jeff Boer  
**Subject:** COVID Updates

Good evening everyone,

Here are a few updates from the COVID-19 Pandemic Task Force:

1. Early Monday morning, the Pulaski County Commissioners rescinded their Executive Order requiring individuals to wear facial coverings in public. While no longer required, the Commissioners did state that they strongly recommend the public continue to wear them when out in the community. It is still our expectation that PMH associates will continue to wear masks when out in public. Many in the city are still looking to us to be examples of how to slow the spread of COVID-19. Below is a story out of Chicago. A nurse (from Chicago) was seen in a crowded bar in Milwaukee (Wisconsin Supreme Court had recently ruled the state's Stay at Home Order was 'unlawful' and 'unenforceable' – effectively allowing businesses to open however they wanted) without a mask and not social distancing.

<https://abc7chicago.com/illinois-nurse-bar-wisconsin-wisconsin-stay-at-home-order/6188226/>

Fairly or unfairly, she received a lot of criticism for her decision, and the hospital she worked for had to publically comment on her actions. This story serves as a good reminder that people are watching us when we are out in public.

2. As the hospital begins to transition back to normal operations, the CPTF will no longer meet daily – instead opting to meet Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. The decision was made after careful evaluation and discussion. If Pulaski County or PMH experience an uptick in cases or a surge of patients, the team can resume meeting daily if the situation warrants.
3. Additionally, with fewer calls coming in through our hotline/online screening tool, the MOB team handling our drive-thru testing is making some changes as well. The hotline will now be staffed by a provider from 9 AM – 4 PM, Monday – Friday. Outside of those hours and on the weekends, the phone number is directed to the ER Admission desk. The Admission Clerk will then route the call to the necessary person/provider. With fewer calls/online screening inquiries, we are seeing fewer people who need to be tested. Because of this, the testing tent will be staffed on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday's going forward. Our goal is to be efficient and to conserve PPE. Anyone who calls in on a Tuesday, Thursday, or the weekend, and is sick and needs to be tested, will be. Further, if we experience a spike in cases or if a hotspot pop's up (similar to Tyson in Cass County), the hotline and testing services can be quickly ramped up again.

If anyone has any questions, please speak with your manager or any CPTF team member.

Thanks,  
Brian

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**Brian Ledley**

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