



MEDIA RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UnityPoint Health calls for community help with COVID-19

Peoria, IL- March 27, 2020- UnityPoint Health (UPH) joins health systems across Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin in securing enough Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to meet the needs of health care providers, staff and patients during COVID-19. We are working tirelessly to obtain PPE from every channel – government, the private sector, new innovative companies and generous members of the public – to get the protective equipment that supports our patients and caregivers. The COVID-19 pandemic is one of the biggest challenges we've ever faced. We're meeting it continuing to do what we do every day: provide the best patient care possible. There are several ways community members can get involved to support UPH during this unprecedented pandemic.

How YOU can help

Masks

We've been overwhelmed by the generous offers we've received from the community to make masks. We want to begin using these masks in areas of indirect patient care to help us preserve our supplies. UnityPoint Health is collecting handmade masks. We ask that you follow the pattern and instructions here at unitypoint.org/help when making masks. If you've already made masks using another pattern, that's OK. We'll take them! You can find instructions on how to make masks at unitypoint.org/help.

Drop off location:

Local drop off location
Hult Center for Healthy Living
5215 N. Knoxville Ave
Peoria, IL 61614
Monday-Friday 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Please place the completed masks in a zip lock bag and drop them off at the Hult Center for Health Living between the hours of 9 am and 2 pm.

Supply Donations

We're also accepting donations for equipment or supplies to help deal with the spread of COVID-19. We are currently accepting:

- N95 respirators
- Surgical masks

- Face shields
- Gowns
- Gloves – non-latex unopened packages
- Ventilators
- Elastic
- Double-sided adhesive tape

Please include your name, phone number and a description of the items you wish to donate, and we will contact you for further details.

Questions: Call 309-672-4958 or email PIA_COVID19_Logistics@unitypoint.org

Provider Resources Needed - *revised*

We are in search of medical personnel to help us prepare in the event that there is an influx of sick patients. Additional assistance will be necessary if personnel are sidelined by the coronavirus or to help staff additional areas being repurposed. We are looking for provider resources in the following areas:

- **Providers to treat respiratory infections** at the ED tents at both Methodist and Pekin to treat patients with simple respiratory infections.
- **Providers with ED experience** who can assist us if our own ED providers become ill.
- **Providers with Critical Care experience** for existing ICUs and expanded care areas
- **Providers, APPs & hospitalists** with any type of hospital experience, including newly graduated residents.
- **Nurses trained in operating ventilators, critical care or relevant experience** that help hospitalized patients breathe.
- **Respiratory therapists** for all areas

These specialists are expected to be in severely short supply as the coronavirus pandemic worsens.

If you are interested, please email: Courtney.newgard@unitypoint.org

Donate Blood

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, blood centers across the country have had to cancel many of its mobile blood drives, which make up the majority of the local blood supplies. The blood supply statewide is critical. We encourage healthy members of the community to consider donating blood and blood plasma. Go to bloodcenter.org for additional information.

UPH Foundation

The work of our Foundations is critical during times like these. Donations would be used to buy meals, gift cards, pay for new scrubs and other support as needed. Please consider sending a donation unitypoint.org/crisis or mail to address UnityPoint Health – Methodist | Proctor Foundation 5409 N. Knoxville Ave Peoria, IL 61614.

The most important thing everyone can do is to continue to practice physical distancing. Social distancing refers to public health interventions that can help stop infectious disease

transmission by avoiding crowds and large gatherings such as weddings, concerts, conferences, sporting events, and mass transit. Best practice requires maintaining at least a six-foot distance between yourself and others.

The [CDC recommends](#) the following:

- Wash your hands properly—and often—or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick or have been exposed to COVID-19
- Practice social distancing
- Stay home if you aren't feeling well
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Wear a face mask only if you are sick, or if you're caring for someone who is sick
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces

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About UnityPoint Health Central Illinois

UnityPoint Health provides comprehensive, coordinated care to patients throughout Central Illinois through our clinics, hospitals and home care services. Services are provided at three hospital campuses – UnityPoint Health - Methodist, UnityPoint Health - Proctor, and UnityPoint Health – Pekin, as well as through more than 50 UnityPoint Clinic, Proctor First Care, and ProHealth Medical Group locations, UnityPoint at Home, the Illinois Institute for Addiction Recovery, and the Hult Center for Healthy Living. A recognized leader in healthcare in our community, UnityPoint Health combines advanced technology and comprehensive services with patient satisfaction that's among the best in the nation.