



Hospice of Central PA

care | comfort | remembrance

## COVID-19 Update Updated May 29, 2020

Hospice of Central PA (HCP) is accepting new patients for end-of-life care, including people who have tested positive for COVID-19 or are in the process of being tested. In an effort to keep all team members healthy, HCP would like to share the following changes and procedures we have put in place to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19 and continue to provide the highest quality of emotional, physical and spiritual support with compassion and respect.

The majority of our patients are cared for in homes or facilities. Prior to going out to see a patient, HCP staff are taking these risk mitigation steps:

1. Wash hands frequently and with proper technique.
2. Self-monitor for symptoms, such as an elevated temperature, daily.
3. Clean surfaces and things touched frequently i.e. bag, phone, etc.
4. Make sure an in-person visit is necessary by prioritizing for attending a death, uncontrolled symptom or condition, admission, personal care visit, emergent emotional or spiritual needs, family issues impacting care delivery and self-harm/suicide assessment.
5. Call the home first to complete a screening questionnaire, including detailed information about symptoms, i.e. fever, dry cough, shortness of breath, diarrhea, and other GI issues. If staff are concerned based on the responses to the questionnaire, they are encouraged to reach out to their supervisor who will assess these concerns on a case-by-case basis.
6. In nursing facilities and personal care home, HCP staff are reviewing the facility protocol report (updated and distributed daily) prior to the visit to assess risk and to follow all protocols for that facility.
7. Wear a mask for all in-person visits.
8. Provide masks to family members upon request.

## COVID-19 CARE TEAM

HCP's COVID-19 team is limited to caring only for hospice patients who are diagnosed positive for COVID-19, or awaiting test results. In addition to nurses and hospice aides who will continue to do in-person visits with the appropriate personal protective equipment, while HCP social workers, chaplains and physicians will continue to provide care to this team remotely via telehealth. HCP's COVID-19 Care Team provide specialized end-of-life care for these patients, and caregivers, and will require a 14-day quarantine before caring for other patients, once referrals of patients testing positive for COVID-19 have stopped.

## CAROLYN'S HOUSE

Carolyn's House is not able to accept COVID-19 patients as there are no negative pressure patient rooms. Visitors to Carolyn's House are still welcome with some conditions:

- Visitors are limited to immediate family and clergy and only two per patient at one time.
- All visitors are screened for COVID-19 symptoms upon entering the house.
- Visitors are required to wear a mask when visiting as per CDC guidelines.
- HCP will provide a mask for visitors if needed.

## LEADERSHIP

The HCP leadership team continues to coordinate our response and preparedness with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and local public health departments.

If you have any questions about HCP's COVID-19 preparation or response, please do not hesitate to reach out to the following members of the leadership team (717) 732-1000.

Gil Brown, President and Chief Executive Officer

Michelle Campbell, RN, Director of Clinical Services

Melissa Ross, RN, Director of Quality & Clinical Operations

Susan Resavy, LSW, Director of Family Services

Maria Olender, DO Chief Medical Director