

# McDonough District Hospital

## **COVID-19 & NEWS UPDATE**

#### NOVEMBER

19

#### **NEWS UPDATE**

Contact:
Patrick Osterman
Public Information Officer
McDonough District Hospital
(309) 836-1557

#### www.MDH.org/COVID19

Click on McDonough District Hospitals website for the latest information on COVID-19.

#### MDH DRIVE-THRU

Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. **THANKSGIVING - CLOSED** 

#### **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Facebook.com/McDonough.District.Hospital for the latest news, infographics, and videos shared by the Hospital.

Follow @MDH\_Hospital on both Twitter and Instagram.

The McDonough County Emergency Information Facebook page (Facebook.com/McDonoughEmergencyInformation) shares updated information surrounding news and events related to COVID-19.

#### VIDEO - YouTube

Search the McDonough District Hospital YouTube channel for past and present video clips.

#### **COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP**

McDonough District Hospital is proud to work with the McDonough County Health Department and McDonough County Emergency Services and Disaster Agency during this COVID-19 Pandemic.



#### www.mchdept.com

Lynnette Cale, MS, CHES - Administrator



<u>www.MCESDA.com</u> Edgar R. Rodriguez – Director



**EDWIN CARD, MD**Chief Medical Officer
McDonough District Hospital

"Beginning with the onset of the pandemic the hospital has put in place plans to maintain the safety of our patients and of our staff. Everyone who enters the building is screened, and anyone who is admitted is placed in isolation until such time that we can confirm that they are not infected. Anyone who is admitted and has the COVID-19 virus remains in isolation until they are discharged. Because of these precautions, the likelihood of a visitor or patient contracting COVID-19 from a hospital visit is extremely low."

55

The **TOTAL** amount of COVID-19 positive inpatient hospitalizations at MDH since the start of the pandemic (as of November 19).

10,243

Total number of people to visit the MDH Drive-Thru since it opened (as of November 15).

**COVID-19 SET-UP:** Just how is MDH set up for any potential surge in COVID-19 cases in the region?

- MDH has admitted a total of 55 patients diagnosed with COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic. MDH continues to utilize the latest therapies to treat COVID-19, including the drug Remdisivir when needed (which can only be used for an inpatient at a hospital) and convalescent plasma.
- During the initial COVID-19 planning stages, the former Senior Behavioral Health unit was converted to a 12-bed acute care unit with the capability to house patients in need of a ventilator. MDH has not yet needed to use that space.
- If acute care patients fill up the 2nd Floor, the hospital has capacity in the former Senior Behavioral Health area, in the Intensive Care Unit, and on the 3rd Floor west wing for additional patients.
  - MDH has plans to support staffing levels for an emergency surge if needed.
- High-traffic areas and frequently-touched surfaces are cleaned and disinfected several times throughout the day by the Environmental Services staff and other members of the hospital staff.
- In case of an emergency, MDH would work with the McDonough County ESDA on acquiring a mobile hospital unit that would come fully staffed.

According to Vice President/Chief Nursing Officer Wanda Foster, "As a hospital, we always have had emergency plans in place, long before the start of the pandemic, for all levels of staffing and patient care. The plans we developed provide for the highest level of patient care and safety for them and our staff."

**COVID REMINDERS:** • Make sure to 1) Wear a Mask; 2) Follow social distancing of at least 6 feet; 3) Perform proper hand hygiene and clean frequently-touched surfaces.

**MDH MINUTE PODCAST:** McDonough District Hospital released the first edition of its MDH Minute podcast. Patrick Osterman sat down with President/CEO Brian E. Dietz and discussed the new MDH Drive-Thru building. You can watch this episode and future episodes on McDonough District Hospital's YouTube channel.



**DRIVE-THRU NUMBERS ON THE RISE:** Since the inception of the Drive-Thru Screening Station in March, daily numbers have steadily increased.

March-April May June July Aug. Sept. Oct. Nov. 6 average/day 28 avg. 23 avg. 39 avg. 57 avg. 63 avg. 76 avg. 84 avg.

When the MDH Drive-Thru permanent building is completed, patients must pre-register to have routine laboratory draws performed.

WHY THE NEED FOR A PERMANENT BUILDING...: Since the onset of COVID-19, more and more patients are showing their preference for drive-thru medicine. Whether it is an ease of access having COVID testing, vaccines, or laboratory draws performed in the comfort of their own vehicle, or ease of mind not having to enter the hospital, many patients stated how much they appreciate the Drive-Thru facility.

With the winter months approaching, and for the safety and well-being of staff and patients, the decision was made to build a permanent structure. Strategic planning took place and will continue to take place, on how to use the building moving forward.

Funding for the building will NOT consist of new dollars to the budget. Money for the MDH Drive-Thru will come from Fiscal Year 2021 capital budget and fundraising by the MDH Foundation. Those projects that were bumped in order to build the Drive-Thru will get postponed until the next fiscal year.

**TIME FOR A VIDEO VISIT:** Feeling ill and don't want to leave the comfort of your home? Do you have a regularly scheduled appointment but for safety reasons would like to stay at home? MDH patients can now bring their provider to them. MDH providers utilize a program called Doxy.me for a video visit with patients.

MDH clinics with the capability to offer TeleHealth include:

- Behavioral Health Services (Outpatient)
- Bushnell Family Practice

- Ear, Nose and Throat
- Family Clinic
- OB/GYNPsychiatry

- Orthopedics
- s Pediatrics
- Sports Medicine/Rehabilitation Occupational, Physical, and Speech Therapy Call your provider or clinic office for more information on how to sign up.



#### **WE'RE PREPARED**

to protect the healthy and care for the sick.



#### **WE'RE HERE**

to take care of emergencies and other non-COVID health needs you have.



### WE'RE READY

safe and open.



McDonough County COVID-19 Tracking Dashboard (mcesda.com) Updated as of November 19, 2020