



## ☒ For Your Information

August 12, 2020

*This message is for all Bozeman Health employees from Incident Command.*

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### **New COVID-19 Employee Surveillance Testing Program**

#### **Here's what's happening...**

In accordance with Bozeman Health's Recovery Operating Imperatives – specifically Safe Care – and in alignment with state and national recommendations, we have enacted a COVID-19 Employee Surveillance Testing Program for Bozeman Health employees. This effort will be led and administered by Employee Health, and testing will begin with a small group of care team members who, if positive, present the greatest risk to vulnerable residents or patients in the following areas: Hillcrest Senior Living, Geriatric Care, and the Cancer Center. As you are aware, surveillance testing at Hillcrest Senior Living began in response to an exposure two weeks ago and has continued weekly in an effort to promptly detect any new positive cases. This response is guided by the Gallatin County Taskforce on Assisted Living Facilities and the latest available evidence.

We believe that by initiating surveillance testing with these small focused groups it will allow us to develop a strong prototype of processes and policies, learning and refining as we go, so we can expand our surveillance testing to additional priority groups with increased efficiency. That said, our intention remains to expand testing to additional care team members providing direct patient care. As capacity and testing supplies become available to us, we will expand across even broader audiences, including to our communities' large employers.

#### **Here's why...**

The safety of our employees and patients is the number one priority at Bozeman Health. Surveillance testing provides an opportunity to promptly detect new COVID-19 infections in our staff. Early detection allows us to utilize important public health tools – contact tracing, quarantine, and isolation – to contain transmission. In effect, surveillance testing of employees means we will be more effective in our efforts to limit the spread of COVID-19 throughout our care sites and in the community.

#### **Here's what you need to do....**

Employee Health will contact staff and their supervisors in the departments where testing is planned: Hillcrest Senior Living, Geriatrics Care, and the Cancer Center. These employees will be given a lab order and instructed to go to the drive-thru test site for their specimen collection. Employees will not need to quarantine after completing their specimen collection unless they are experiencing symptoms related to COVID-19. Employee health will contact employees with their test results within 24 hours of the specimen collection. Results will also be available on the individual's MyChart account if they have signed up for one.

If you are a team member not currently slated to participate in employee surveillance testing, please continue your work as usual, and remember, if you are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms, immediately contact Employee Health (per our policy: [Prevention and Management of Exposure to COVID-19 amongst Healthcare Personnel and Return to Work Guidance](#)) or call the COVID-19 hotline.

**Questions or comments?** Contact [Incidentcommand@bozemanhealth.org](mailto:Incidentcommand@bozemanhealth.org).