

8/26/20 Community Town Hall Questions

Topic: Census

- Social media says hospital is FULL. True or not?
- Is Maui Memorial at its capacity?
- We hear that the State of Hawaii is almost at capacity with hospital beds. How many beds does Maui Memorial have and how many of those beds are already occupied?
- Are all beds indeed full like healthcare workers state?
- There are several posts on FB saying MMMC ICU is full, beds are available in non-ICU wards but not enough staff and vents are full. What is the state of ICU?
- What is the ICU capacity?
- How many vents are being used and how many are available for use?
- How many ventilators are currently available at Maui Memorial?
- Define hospital capacity, bed available, equipment available, staff available to take care of how many patients can current staff handle
- How long is ER wait time and how many people are being held in ER

Hospital Capacity

Currently, Maui Memorial Medical Center (MMMC) is not at full capacity. Because we are the only full service, acute care hospital in Maui County, the hospital generally runs at high capacity, however it is rare that every bed is full. At high capacity, some specific units may be full, and this can present a challenge if a patient needs to be moved to a new (higher or lower) level of care. Additionally, high capacity does present challenges in the ease and speed in which we are able to move patients to their beds. For example, if a patient comes in to our Emergency Department with an illness or injury that requires them to be admitted to stay in the hospital, we would move them from the ER to a unit. Our team at Maui Memorial are very accustomed to working in the high capacity census and very skillful at accommodating all the patients. When a unit is full, we have a contingency plan in place for if we need one of those specific rooms.

MMMC is licensed for 219 beds and most days start with a census of between 185 and 200. These beds are divided into several levels of care, such as critical care, progressive care, telemetry, medical-surgical, and obstetrics. Routine equipment and supplies are available to support the general mix of patient types.

Since the facility does run consistently at high capacity, nurse staffing levels are maintained to care for the full 219 beds, even if they are not full. Our priority is to staff the hospital with local staff, however, we do need to add some traveler staff to supplement our regular staff. Even during flu season, prior to COVID, we have always been prepared to supplement regular nursing staff with contingent/contract staff if we ever had an usual number of staff out of work sick. This is part of our contingency plans in place to address any staffing shortages. All travel nurses are tested for COVID upon arrival to Maui and then again on day 6. They are also required to report their temperature to Employee Health two times a day for 14 days. We, along with hospitals

across the nation, are focused on making sure we can bring nurses and other support staff in to help support and supplement our amazing Maui Health team.

ICU

The Intensive Care Unit (ICU) capacity at MMMC is 31 with beds divided between two units. One unit has 16 beds and the second unit has 15 beds. The ICU is full at times, however, when this happens, it is generally due to non-critical care patients that have not been moved to a lower level of care. This situation is evaluated throughout the day, and plans are made as to which patients will be moved if another critical patient arrives.

MMMC has 32 standard ventilators that are meant for use in the critical care units. In addition to the standard ventilators, there are other devices that can be used as standard ventilators if there is a need for additional ventilators. There are eleven anesthesia machines can be quickly converted to provide general ventilation. Bridge ventilators are also available to support a patient during the time it may take to activate an anesthesia machine or other ventilation device. The average number of ventilators in use each day is five.

ER Wait Time

The wait time to be seen in the emergency department to be placed in a bed and see a physician is minimal. There are times patients are held in the emergency department waiting for bed placement.

Hospital Capacity – General Information

Hospital capacity (census) changes by the hour (sometimes even more frequently) and is really just a snapshot of that time of day. It can sometimes be misleading as that number would only be accurate at the very minute we share it and can change the next minute. Our census continually fluctuates, as it does in every hospital in every state and nation, it naturally goes up and down based on a number of factors including patients being admitted, being moved to a different unit, coming out of an outpatient procedure and needing a bed to recover for just a couple of hours, and being discharged. Sometimes a discharge may take longer than expected and while that is happening, we have a patient needing that bed. We constantly monitor the census to ensure we have adequate staffing, bed availability and supplies, including PPE, to take care of all our patients. This is a team effort between our medical staff, nursing, environmental care team, and administration to closely monitor, and prepare to respond to any census changes if needed.