

When You Have COVID-19

What to expect while you are in the hospital

This handout is for patients who are being treated at UWMC for the COVID-19 coronavirus.

How will my nurses safely care for me?

For safety, your nurses will wear *protective gear* when they come to your room. This gear includes masks, visors, gloves, and gowns.

To help conserve the hospital's supply of this gear, your nurses will "cluster" their care. This means they will:

- Limit the number of times they enter your room
- Do more than 1 task each time they come in



Your nurses will wear a mask, a visor, and other protective gear when they care for you.

When your nurses come to your room, they may take your vital signs, draw blood, bring supplies, bring you food, give you medicines, and help you to the bathroom. At this time, nurses cannot come to your room to help with only 1 task.

Because your nurses are clustering care, you may not see them as often as you expect.

Why is there so much noise in my room?

You may find the room is very loud. The loud noise is coming from a fan that filters the air. While you have COVID-19, we must filter the air in your room. Please ask your nurse for ear plugs, if needed.

How can my loved ones check in?

Please ask your loved ones to call staff for updates **only once a day**. This is due to the many patients we are caring for at this time. We will get in touch with them if your condition changes.

We will make sure your room phone is next to your bed so that your loved ones can call you directly.

Can my family and friends visit me?

We cannot allow family and friends in the area where we are treating patients with COVID-19. This is for everyone's safety. We will follow this policy until COVID-19 is no longer a threat to our patients, staff, and community.

How will I get meals?

You will be able to order your meals through the hospital dining service. You can order meals to be delivered at a certain time. You can also order food for the next day. Please talk with your nurse about timing your meal delivery with nursing tasks.

Your hospital meals will come in throw-away packaging. Please be aware that this packaging may not keep meals hot.

Can my loved ones bring me food from home?

If you need a certain food for cultural reasons, and the hospital cannot provide it:

- Please talk with your nurse if you need to arrange this. A loved one can bring the food to the front entrance of the hospital. A staff person will be there to take the package.
- Whoever brings food for you should:
 - **NOT** have any symptoms of a cold or virus
 - **NOT** have been asked to self-quarantine by a provider or public health official
- Once food is delivered to your room, we cannot bring it out again to be warmed or stored.
- After you have eaten, we will throw away all packaging, including Tupperware.

Questions?

Your questions are important. Call your doctor or healthcare provider if you have questions or concerns.