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## Volunteer Appreciation Month

Volunteer Appreciation month at Jennie looks a lot different this year! Most years, the hospital staff can be found showering volunteers with treats and praise. This year you are under "house arrest," or so it seems! We can't tell you how much we appreciate all you have done for us and how much you are missed! Not only by the Volunteer staff, but by the service areas you all support. Please stay safe and we'll celebrate you when you return.



## Our Ever Changing Environment

As was mentioned last month, the landscape at Jennie continues to change – often on a daily basis. Here's a rundown of what's been going on around here this past month.

### No Visitor Policy effective April 1

As of April 1st the Methodist Health System moved to a no visitor policy at our hospitals and clinics as another way to protect patients and staff from potential exposure. We are down to two points of entry into the hospital - the Emergency entrance and the second floor of the 201 Building. Each person entering the facility (staff included) are screened daily for symptoms and temperature before being allowed entry. Knowing how challenging our no-visitor policy is for our patients and their families, much work has been done in the past several weeks to have iPads and laptops at our facilities for communications. These devices allow our care teams to communicate with patients in isolation while also allowing our staff to assist patients with virtual visits with their families.

We are also social distancing at work. Meetings are held via phone whenever possible. In the cafeteria, tables are limited to only 2 chairs and tables are spaced 6 feet apart. Masks are being worn by all staff members. Cloth masks have been distributed to all non-clinical staff, while procedural masks are worn in patient care areas. Staff with exposure risk of COVID-19 patients are wearing N95 masks.

### UV rooms help with N95 supply - The Surge

We've all heard the concerns about supply shortages of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) across the country. Keeping staff safe at Jennie is a top priority. Our health system has been very proactive in procuring equipment and Jennie, in particular, has been very innovative in conserving our resources. On April 2nd, we went live utilizing two Electro-Clave UV boxes which allow us to clean N95 masks for reuse up to 20 times. Two rooms were identified near the ICU and the Emergency Department in order to support employees taking care of Persons Under Investigation (PUI).

On Friday, March 27, those rooms were outfitted with necessary equipment and supplies. IT lines were connected, badge readers were installed and sterile processing staff were trained on the disinfectant procedure. Jennie Edmundson has successfully been disinfecting N95s since that date and actually led the way for the rest of the Methodist Health System. Community members, law enforcement and fire and rescue squads are now partnering with Jennie Edmundson to learn about this technology and to utilize our resources.

There have been work groups throughout the Methodist Health System doing great work on surge plans at all hospital locations in preparation for the anticipated influx of COVID-19 patients in our area. Surge plans help dictate our course of action when faced with large increases of patients – such as patient placement and staffing, facility and equipment needs. Cardiac Rehabilitation has been converted into an overflow area for the Emergency Department. A doorway connecting the two areas has opened up the space and allowed for direct access.

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## Upcoming Events:

May 4th

### **Auxiliary Board Mtg - Teleconference**

Noon - 1

Please RSVP for call in number

May 20

### **Division Heads - Teleconference**

9am - 11am

Please RSVP for call in number

May 28

### **Chaplains - Teleconference**

9am - 10am

Please RSVP for call in number

June 17th

### **Division Heads - Teleconference**

9am - 11am

Please RSVP for call in number

June 25

### **Chaplains - Teleconference**

9am - 10am

Please RSVP for call in number

July 4th

### **Independence Day**

Office Closed - It's Saturday silly, of course the office is closed



## Positivity - Keepin' Up Your Spirits at Home



1. Open all shades, curtains
2. Play music all day wherever you are in the house, i.e. kitchen, bathroom, basement, garage...
3. Keep up your routine, shower every day and put on clean clothes.
4. Drink water in a fancy glass.
5. Call at least one friend or relative a day.
6. Schedule a "specific movie" over the hours that the news is on so you can monitor your intake of COVID-19 news.
7. Get in a walk sometime during your day.

SOURCE: Best Care EAP and [www.drkellyjameson.com](http://www.drkellyjameson.com)

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As part of our continued preparation, two tents were placed on our campus on April 6th by members of the Iowa National Guard. There is no immediate need for the tents, but they will be used for triage and assessments in case of an influx of patients due to the pandemic. The anticipated surge for our area is planned for May 7th – obviously we hope this is a non-event, but we will be ready!



### Negative Pressure Rooms

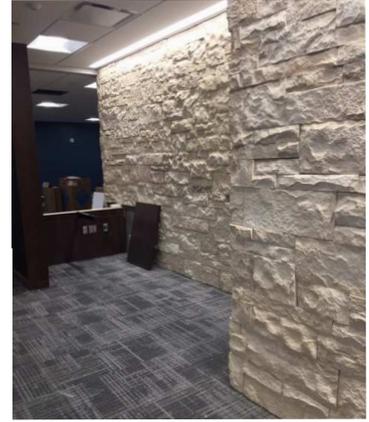
In a move toward preparing for an influx of patients, we are nearing completion on work to expand negative pressure room capacity. Among the four hospitals in the health system, there will be 239 negative pressure rooms available. For diseases that travel through the air, like COVID-19, special hospital rooms are essential for controlling pathogens and making sure they stay contained to one patient's room, rather than infecting others nearby. Negative pressure rooms allow this to occur. New negative pressure rooms/capacity by location is as follows: Methodist, 155; Methodist Women's Hospital, 18; Jennie Edmundson, 43; and Methodist Fremont Health, 23. This couldn't have been done without the expertise and adaptability of construction teams, service leaders, Environmental Services staff and many others.



## Calling All Books

With visitor and volunteer restrictions now in place at the hospital, our book donations have come to a screeching halt. Our current supply of used books for sale in the gift shop is extremely low. So, while you are doing all of that cleaning and purging of old, and unused items around your house, think of us when it comes to books. Due to infection control, we CANNOT take your books right now, but call us and we'll let you know when we get the OK to accept books again. All proceeds from book sales go toward the Charitable Patient Care Fund for patients in need.

# Medical Office Building Update



If you haven't driven by the hospital recently, you may not be aware of the progress that has been made on the new medical office building (the MOB) across the street. The landscaping is complete, the parking lot is done, the lettering is up on the street facing sign. The Methodist dove is on the building, and if you drive at night, you'll even see office lights on. On a recent afternoon, we had the opportunity to tour the inside of the building and the progress is quite amazing!

The first floor will house both Primary Care and Urgent Care. The second floor will be home to Methodist Physician's Clinic Women's Services. Mammography equipment (pictured) had just arrived the morning of my visit. A portion of the third floor will house Midwest GI, while the remaining space has yet to be determined. The building is really coming together and is a nice addition to the neighborhood! It is anticipated that the building will open for business in early June. We'll be sure to keep you posted!



933 East Pierce Street, Box 2C  
Council Bluffs, IA 51502

Change Services Requested



**Note to Volunteers:** We will call you when it's ok to come back to work. In the meantime: catch up with friends and family over the phone; check on your neighbors (via phone); read a book; try out some new recipes; do some cleaning; watch some movies. We are going to need you before you know it, so be sure to take care of yourself, and... we will see you soon!