

COVID-19

A message from Ballad Heath Corporate
Emergency Operations Center (CEOC)



CEOC Daily briefing

Monday edition

TO: Appalachian Highlands Community and Civic Leaders
FROM: Ballad Health Corporate Emergency Operations Center
DATE: [March 23, 2020](#)
TITLE: Daily COVID-19 briefing – March 23, 2020
ACTION: Please share with your communities

[Ballad Health restricts visitation](#)

Effective Saturday, March 21, Ballad Health will no longer allow visitors in our inpatient hospital units, long-term care facilities or behavioral health centers. Exceptions to this policy include labor and delivery units, which will allow one visitor per room. The neonatal intensive care unit at Niswonger Children's Hospital, as well as rooms with pediatric patients, will allow two visitors, but they must be the patient's parents or guardians.

[An update on non-emergent surgical procedures](#)

Upon consultation with the local medical community, Ballad Health agrees with guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the American College of Radiology, and the State of Tennessee, which recommend hospitals postpone non-emergent procedural cases and outpatient diagnostic procedures. Based on the recommendations, we will follow the [COVID-19: Guidance for Triage of Non-Emergent Surgical Procedures](#) published by the American College of Surgeons on March 17. Prior to visiting the hospital for a previously scheduled procedure, please call your doctor's office directly to receive guidance on whether it has been postponed.

[Additional points to note](#)

- Total positive COVID-19 case count:
 - Tennessee: 615 cases
 - Virginia: 254 cases
- The highest COVID-19 infection rates in Tennessee are happening in the 21-30 age group; college students, young professionals and their peers need to remain vigilant about social distancing guidelines.
- COVID-19 and social distancing efforts are impacting blood donation supplies nationwide – and the Appalachian Highlands is no exception. We're [urging all eligible blood donors to give](#), in

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order to prevent a critical blood shortage. Please call Marsh Regional Blood Center to schedule an appointment to donate blood today.

- All COVID-19 updates and information will continue to be shared to www.balladhealth.org/COVID19.

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