



CULLMAN
REGIONAL

An open letter to Cullman Area Community Members-

We, your hospital and physicians, want our community to know that we are working together to lead our community through this healthcare event. We have been preparing intensely for this event for several weeks. We are ready to serve our community members as needed. During this time, as situations rapidly change, we urge everyone to abide by the regulations set forth by our state and local leaders by limiting your interaction with others and practicing "social distancing."

We understand that many are concerned about the spread of novel coronavirus (COVID-19), and what it means if you were to get it. Most people who get the virus do not require hospitalization and can recover at home with symptomatic treatment. Symptoms include cough, fever and shortness of breath. If you feel sick, but can manage at home, stay home to help prevent the spreading of germs to others.

Rest assured the majority of people with symptoms do not need to be tested for Coronavirus. In our area test kit availability is still limited, and all providers are trying to be good stewards of the resources we currently have by being judicious about who to test first. This is not intended to deny anyone, but simply intended to ensure that those in our community who are most vulnerable are able to get the care they need as fast as possible. Based on information from the Alabama Department of Public Health, we expect additional testing kits in a matter of days. As additional testing capability becomes available more widespread testing will be done. With good hygiene and social distancing, it's OK to wait a few days to be tested if you are not sick.

If you are concerned and have questions about COVID-19 and what you should do, you can call Cullman Regional's COVID-19 Information Line at (256) 735-5530. We have operators to help answer your questions. If you have symptoms that you feel cannot be managed at home, first call your primary care provider's office, for guidance about being seen by a healthcare professional. If you do not have a primary care provider and will be going to an Urgent Care or Emergency Department, call ahead first so advance preparations can be made to see you if necessary.

We are committed to ensuring the emotional and physical well-being of every citizen of our community. Above all remain calm and know we are all working together to weather this event.

Sincerely,

William Smith, MD
Chief Medical Officer
Cullman Regional

Randy Yarbrough,
President of the Medical Staff

L. James Hoover, MD
Cullman Internal Medicine
Immediate Past President of the Medical Staff

Christopher Coccia, DO
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