



Russell Meyers, CEO of Midland Health

COVID-19 Daily Briefing: Friday, April 10, 2020

Transcribed from a previously recorded live event.

Mr. Meyers: I'm Russell Meyers, CEO of Midland Health. This is your Coronavirus update for Good Friday April 10th, 2020. I understand we've had a little bit of technical difficulty with our Facebook live feed this morning, so thanks to all of our media members. And we will have the Facebook posted as soon as we finish and can put the recording up on our website or on Facebook.

Ok, numbers for this morning, Texas now has over 10,000 confirmed COVID-19 cases. In Midland County we have 31. Texas has 199 deaths as of yesterday and 1 death still in Midland County. Our testing now is over 700 that the hospital has sent away from it's testing sites. 32 of those positive. I think that's got a couple of duplications in it as I recall so 29 or 30 patients. The vast majority are negative. We are still waiting on over 100 test results from as much as now 4 days ago.

The hospital census is 107. ED visits were 84 yesterday remaining at the extraordinarily low levels for this time of year. Critical Care census at 16; our PUIs we have 7 in critical care and 10 in med surge locations for a total of 17. Only 3 of those are confirmed positive. We have 6 ventilators in use as of now.

We've talked a couple of times about our employee health group and their monitoring of employees who have had not only exposure to known or suspected positive COVID-19 patients, but other infectious diseases. The numbers are coming down. We have 11 remaining quarantined employees, 7 employees who have had some level of exposure, but have no symptoms so are continuing to work with PPE intact, and 82 employees that we've completely cleared.

We've talked a good bit over the last few days about finance. There is a little news about that today. The federal government has been moving rapidly to get the first batch of distributions from the CARES Act out to hospitals. And as of this morning Midland Memorial has received \$3.7 million out of the \$30 billion that's being allocated across the country. So, we have \$3.7 million in hand today from the Federal Government. That is essentially a grant. There are no or relatively few strings attached. It doesn't have to be repaid. We are also waiting on a substantial advance from the Medicare program to give us some cash flow that will have to be repaid. That's about 6 months' worth of Medicare payments. There'll be no payment required for 4 months and then it will be repaid out of Medicare collections after that 4 months. No interest on that amount of money. So, those 2 things together will be pretty helpful for us in navigating the financial challenge of this time when our activity is down, our elective cases and things are not available to us and so revenue is severely restricted. More to come on that as we talk about plans for the future. I believe we are in a position to ride this out through April. We are talking to our boards about what happens beyond April and how we should adjust. Of course, the big wild card is: When do we begin to see some restrictions released? When do we go back to doing elective procedures? And our projections have modeled several different time frames as we look at the rest of this year. So, lots of work left to do on that.

I'd like to call on Kit Bredimus, our Chief Nursing Officer to talk to you about a special recognition program we have started for our team. Kit-



Dr. Kit Bredimus: Thank you Russell. What I'd like to ask today is help in supporting our front-line workers in the hospital settings. As I have posted earlier, some of you may have seen the white ribbon initiative that's going on nationally. Here locally we'd like to also help support that initiative. And what that means is that to recognize our front-line healthcare workers, doctors, nurses, RTs, lab, phlebotomist, everyone that's involved in the front line COVID response. We'd like to help support them by putting a white ribbon out in front of your house. So, this can be tied around a tree, lamp post, mailbox, whatever you have. But this is just a small salute to our heroes to let them know that we as a community are supporting them. So, I'm asking today everyone that if you have any materials, any white ribbon like material that you can wrap around trees, posts, anything like that or even in windows that you can do that. We'll also be branding our Midland Memorial page with a white ribbon logo as well. But really help us support that and really help in getting the message out that we support our front-line staff. Thank you.

Mr. Meyers: Thanks Kit. That's a great initiate and I know our people appreciate every bit of support they can get from people in our community. The community has responded tremendously well to our request for donations, to these briefings, to any opportunity that people have had to give positive feedback to the people here and every little bit does help. Hopefully by the end of the day today you'll see white ribbon all over our campus. And we are looking forward to seeing the community step up and continue its support for our team.

A shout out today to another really vital group in our organization. Val Sparks and the team in infection control and employee health have done tremendous work from the very beginning of this process. I told you how many employees we've been tracking, almost 100 every day that they keep track of every day or have been keeping up with every day. Also, staying on top of the recommendations from the CDC, the ever-changing governmental regulations and directives, changes in common practice that are seeing success in other areas. Our infection control team, especially Val, are available 24 hours a day and they are getting called 24 hours a day for help with navigating this difficult and unprecedented situation. So, thanks more than we can say to Val and the very good team we have in infection control and employee health.

Finally, I'd like to close with a reminder this is a holiday weekend coming up. There will be lots of temptations to forget about our social distancing expectations and go out and live normally. And that's just not a good decision at this point. We continue to need to maintain social distancing, to wear those masks when you are in public, to wash your hands, to be careful monitoring yourself for any symptoms. And if you have any if you have a fever, if you have respiratory symptoms to isolate yourself at home, call 68-NURSE for guidance. And if your symptoms worsen to the point that you need to come to the hospital then by all means do come to the hospital. But if you can isolate and take care of yourself at home please do. I'd like to wish everyone a happy Easter and one more reminder to keep social distancing. Thank You.