

All facilities in AdventHealth's Central Florida Division recently updated their visitor policy to support team members caring for the rising number of COVID-19 patients. As of Monday, Aug. 2, AdventHealth has transitioned to virtual visits for all COVID-19 positive inpatients. Patient experience experts are available to help patients connect with loved ones virtually, should assistance be needed. Additionally, exceptions will be made for children under the age of 18, obstetrics, pediatrics and end of life situations. The Central Florida Division includes Flagler, Lake, Orange, Osceola, Polk, Seminole and Volusia counties. To learn more about the newly revised visitation policy, [click here](#).

For more information and facts about COVID and vaccines, click here: <https://www.adventhealth.com/coronavirus-resource-hub>

## **Keeping You Safe – COVID-19 Update**

### **AdventHealth Morning Briefing (August 5, 2021) –**

On this week's AdventHealth Morning Briefing Dr. Eduardo Oliveira, executive medical director of critical care services at AdventHealth Central Florida, said that the system's decision to defer non-emergency surgeries last week has helped free up staff to be redeployed to care for critically ill COVID patients as well as make space in the ICU.

“This is the highest number of COVID patients we've treated so far,” Oliveira said. “It's definitely putting a certain level of strain on our system as far as our ability to care for all of those patients. We've done that very well so far, but it's a high number.”

He said care teams want the community to know that getting more people vaccinated is the way to end the pandemic and bring some relief inside the hospitals.

He also noted AdventHealth began last year offering monoclonal antibody treatments or outpatient infusions for COVID-positive patients that have proven highly effective at preventing patients from getting sick enough to require hospitalization. Find more information about monoclonal antibodies [here](#).

In order to be effective monoclonal antibody treatment must be administered in the first ten days after developing symptoms. The surest way to prevent serious illness is the vaccine.

“I believe folks will realize that getting vaccinated is the way out of this pandemic,” he said.

**COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions** – In an effort to encourage more community vaccinations, members of AdventHealth’s clinical leadership staff addressed frequently asked questions about the COVID-19 vaccine:

**Q: Is hospital capacity at risk?**

A: The reason we are adjusting our status is to ensure we have capacity in the future. Our hospitals are designed in such a way that spaces are flexible and expandable. AdventHealth has an extensive health care system in place in Central Florida so we can locate patients to the facility that best matches the level of care they need.

**Q: Do you have enough supplies and ventilators?**

A: We have sufficient supplies of ventilators, monitors and other specialized equipment in order to quickly convert spaces in the hospital to both standard and ICU level rooms, should they be needed.

**Q: What percentage of COVID inpatients are vaccinated?**

A: Across AdventHealth’s nationwide system 94% of patients hospitalized with COVID are unvaccinated.

**Q: Is AdventHealth administering COVID vaccines?**

A: AdventHealth continues to offer COVID vaccines for the public at six [Centra Care locations](#). AdventHealth also is offering COVID vaccines to inpatients at its hospitals throughout the Central Florida Division.

**Q. Where should I go if I think I have COVID?**

A: Rapid COVID testing is offered at all Centra Care locations. Only go to the emergency room if you are experiencing severe symptoms, such as difficulty breathing.

### **Doctors Say Many Patients ‘Young’ and ‘Healthy’ Express Regret Over Not Getting Vaccine –**

During last week’s briefing, Dr. Neil Finkler, chief clinical officer of AdventHealth’s Central Florida Division, said the COVID-19 surge has affected not just young and middle-aged healthy adults, but pregnant women and some pediatric patients. Pediatric cases increased at the start of the week, he said, noting the surge in the cases, including those among children, are being driven by the highly contagious Delta variant. He also urged parents to consider having their children wear masks in the classroom when public schools resume in August.

He said more than 90% of COVID-19 patients who are hospitalized are unvaccinated. Those who are fully vaccinated and hospitalized with the virus typically have other comorbidities such as cancer or autoimmune diseases. More details [here](#).

**COVID-19 and Pregnancy** – Dr. Michael Cacciatore, chief medical officer for AdventHealth Medical Group and an OB-GYN, said he’s increasingly seeing cases of pregnant women, who are unvaccinated, develop severe COVID infections and require intubation and life support. Such scenarios put the health of the baby at risk because pregnant women are more susceptible to respiratory complications and their bodies often cannot produce an adequate level of oxygen to support both the mother and the baby, even with a breathing tube. As result, some babies are being emergently delivered pre-term. He said the vaccine is highly recommended for pregnant women with the risk of an actual COVID-19 infection being far greater than any risk related to the vaccine. He also said there is no impact on fertility for women who get the vaccine. Watch the video [here](#).

**Unvaccinated People Are in Much More Danger Than Vaccinated People** – According to Dr. Francis Collins of the National Institutes of Health, the unvaccinated are:

- 3 times more likely to get infected.
- 8 times more likely to get symptoms when infected.
- 25 times more likely to be hospitalized with COVID-19.

Those who are vaccinated are less likely to get infected, Collins said. When breakthrough infections do happen in vaccinated people, they usually lead to mild or no symptoms at all.

But vaccinated people who get breakthrough infections might be able to spread Covid-19 as easily as unvaccinated people, according to the CDC. More on the story [here](#).

## Important Resources

We encourage you to use the following resources for your top COVID-19 questions and concerns:

- **Coronavirus Vaccine Resource Hub** - AdventHealth launched a Coronavirus Vaccine Resource Hub and includes everything from FAQs, latest news and information on the AdventHealth vaccine team and our scientific committee. Visit [www.CoronavirusVaccineFacts.com](http://www.CoronavirusVaccineFacts.com) to learn more about the vaccine.
- **If you have questions about COVID-19** or wonder if you should be tested, call the free AdventHealth Coronavirus Information Line at **877-VIRUS-HQ (877-847-8747)**. You can also find information at [www.CoronaVirusSignsAndSymptoms.com](http://www.CoronaVirusSignsAndSymptoms.com).
- **Donation Hub** - For ways you can help, including sending notes of encouragement to our caregivers, as well as virtual volunteering opportunities, please [click here](#).
- **Mental Health** - If you, your family, or colleagues, are in need of emotional help during this uncertain time, the [Heart of Florida United Way 211 Information and Referral Crisis Line](#) is connecting residents with information about available resources in the Central Florida community. Whether it's finding out the location of the nearest food pantry or seeking information related to the virus, 211 Call Specialists are there to help.
- **Virtual Visit Options** - [AdventHealth Virtual Visits](#) are available now for primary care, pediatrics and specialty care, as well as physical therapy. In the comfort of your home, you can speak with a medical provider by a video visit or phone call.