

COVID-19 COMMUNITY Update



April 10, 2020

A Message from Wellstar's President and CEO

Dear Fellow Community Leaders,

In an effort to keep our community leaders informed during this unprecedented time, we are providing you with this community update on COVID-19. Wellstar Health System values the relationship we have with you as a community partner and we hope you find this to be a valuable resource to keep you apprised of Wellstar's continued response to COVID-19, what's next, and how you can help.

We extend a heartfelt note of gratitude to the many community members across Georgia who have donated supplies, meals and other resources as our physicians and caregivers work to ensure every person receives high-quality, compassionate care. We are very thankful for the outpouring of support for our healthcare heroes.

As one of Georgia's largest, most integrated health systems, we have a unique understanding of what our communities need most right now – namely, the collective action of other health systems, regulatory authorities, elected officials, business and civic leaders across the state to promote and protect the safety of our patients and neighbors. We are so grateful for our community partners as we work through this together. Thank you for your time, expertise, and support, and we look forward to communicating with you more in the days to come.

We sincerely appreciate your partnership in our community.

Sincerely,

Candice L. Saunders
President and CEO

COVID-19 Update

- Access to testing remains a global challenge. We encourage community members to use virtual screening tools and schedule online visits with their healthcare provider before coming onsite.
- Flattening the curve will require all community members follow the shelter-in-place orders and social distancing directives.
- Wellstar has been preparing for an influx of COVID-19 cases since January and is well-positioned to meet the growing needs of our community. Our formal emergency preparedness infrastructure (the Hospital Incident Command - HICS) provides round-the-clock guidance and support to our teams on the frontline.
- We are grateful for leaders making difficult decisions right now at every level and encourage you to reach out to our Government Relations team (advocacy@wellstar.org) with any questions about policies and actions you can take.
- With the passing of the CARES Act, we are anxious to see what Georgia's allotment of the \$100 billion dedicated to our nation's hospitals will be. Wellstar is in contact with the top officials at GEMA who pledge to alert us when guidance is available on how we can secure those funds.



Wellstar is making important COVID-19 information and resources available at wellstar.org/covid19. We are continually updating our website so you can stay informed.

Visit us online to learn:

- The symptoms of COVID-19
- When and how you should seek professional medical attention if symptoms become unmanageable at home
- How to protect yourself and others from spreading the disease
- Your Coronavirus Virtual Assessment



Practice Social
Distancing



Practice Social Distancing

Why social distancing? Because it will help stop the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). Social distancing means deliberately increasing the physical space between people to avoid spreading illness. Staying at least six feet away from others lessens your chance of catching COVID-19. Need to share updates like this with friends and family? Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

Take the Wellstar COVID-19 Virtual Assessment

Feeling sick and concerned? To help people throughout our communities assess whether they are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, we've added a Coronavirus Virtual Assessment screening tool to our website, wellstar.org. The tool comes with tips for where to get the right care and other helpful resources from the CDC.



Wellstar
COVID-19 Virtual Assessment

HOW YOU CAN HELP

GIVE TO COVID-19 RELIEF

[DONATE](#)

As one of the most extensive and integrated not-for-profit health systems in Georgia, Wellstar stands on the frontline in the fight against COVID-19. If you wish to support us in this fight, please consider making an online donation to COVID-19 Relief.

Every dollar will be put to work where relief is needed most.

We are grateful for the outpouring of support we have received from individuals, local businesses, and organizations in the community. Many of you have reached out looking for ways to help our frontline team members and patients being cared for in our hospitals. If you have medical supplies, homemade masks, restaurant meals or other goods/services you wish to donate, please contact the Wellstar Foundation to schedule a drop-off time and location.

[Click the link to complete our online inquiry form.](#)

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

[LEARN MORE](#)

GIVE BLOOD

The **American Red Cross** is in emergency need of blood donations due to an unprecedented number of recent blood drive cancellations. The Red Cross is taking precautions to ensure giving blood is a safe and healthy process.

Several Wellstar locations will be hosting blood drives.
[Click below to schedule an appointment at a drive near you.](#)

[FIND A BLOOD DRIVE](#)

It's not too late to send your doctor a message of gratitude and a gift to the Wellstar Foundation in honor of **National Doctors' Day**. Your gift will help build upon the resources our physicians use to care for patients every day and can be designated to COVID-19 Relief, if you choose.

RECOGNIZE WELLSTAR HEALTHCARE PROS

[MAKE A DOCTORS' DAY GIFT](#)

LETTERS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

The **Wellstar Foundation** has partnered with **Hands On Atlanta** for a letter writing campaign providing our medical teams with words of gratitude and encouragement during this time. Hands On Atlanta has provided simple instructions on how and where to send your letters. This project is fun for the whole family and our team members will appreciate your kind words!

[SEND A LETTER OF ENCOURAGEMENT](#)

WellstarFoundation

STAY CONNECTED

Be sure to follow Wellstar Health System on social media for instant updates and the latest in healthcare news.



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