

# COVID-19

Patient  
Care Services

April 6, 2020

*In appreciation for your selfless work and dedication  
during these extraordinary times*

## Preparing for surge in COVID-19 ICU patients

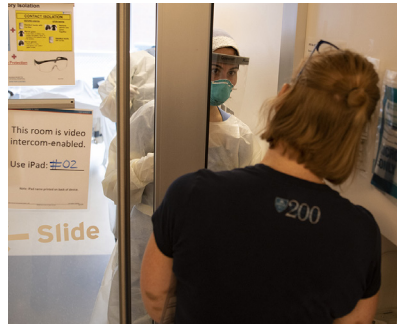
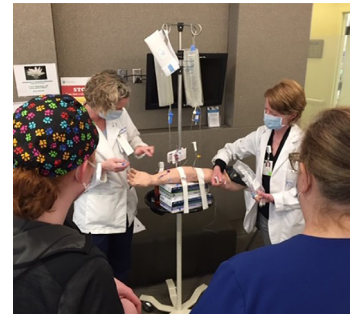
When it was announced that the Ellison 3 PACU would be converted to an ICU to accommodate the influx of COVID-19 patients, the Norman Knight Nursing Center, under the leadership of Gino Chisari, RN, developed several training programs to prepare nurses for the transition. In collaboration with PACU leadership, within 48 hours a comprehensive ICU Nurse Refresher Course was developed. In the first two weeks, more than 150 nurses attended the class (from the PACU, Endoscopy, CPC, Interventional Radiology, and Cardiac Catheterization). Training included simulation exercises provided by Brian French, RN, and his team.

It was soon determined that more critical-care beds and staff would be needed, so the Knight Center team created the ICU Course for General Care Staff. This course features evidence-based best practices for COVID-19 patients derived from several nationally recognized sources, including our own subject-matter experts. The General Care Course for Non-Inpatient Nurses was created to support nurses going to general care units, including Pediatrics and Obstetrics. Other courses are being developed to support surges in volume in the Emergency Department and other clinical areas.

When the decision was made to convert Lunder 7 and Lunder 9 to ICUs, the Knight Simulation Center team

created a portable, low-fidelity simulation center on Lunder 9 to expedite training for staff. Faculty included Mary Guanci, RN, Sue Stengrevics, RN, professional development specialists from the Knight Simulation Center, and staff nurses currently enrolled in nurse anesthesia programs.

The need for Donning/Doffing PPE training continues to be in high demand. Training videos are available at: <https://apollo.massgeneral.org/coronavirus/clinicians/infection-control/>.



(Top): The Knight Simulation Center team leads exercises in the portable simulation center on Lunder 9. (Above left): Lunder 7 nurses, Danielle Salguero, RN (back to the camera), and Sarah O'Keefe, RN; (right) Christel Welch, RN. (At left): Lunder 7 inter-disciplinary team.