



**HOCKING VALLEY  
Community Hospital**

LEADING THE WAY TO A HEALTHIER COMMUNITY

**APRIL 3, 2020**

# Weekly Update



## EVENTS CALENDAR

**April 10: Blood Drive  
HVCH Meeting Room**

A blood drive will be held in the HVCH meeting room from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 740-380-8218 to schedule a time to donate.

## INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES OF THE WEEK

*"I have learned over the years that when one's mind is made up, this diminishes fear; knowing what must be done does away with fear."*

—Rosa Parks

*"In the sweetness of friendship let there be laughter, and sharing of pleasures. For in the dew of little things the heart finds its morning and is refreshed."*

—Khalil Gibran

*"Even a happy life cannot be without a measure of darkness, and the word happy would lose its meaning if it were not balanced by sadness. It is far better to take things as they come along with patience and equanimity."*

—Carl Jung

**Friday, April 10 from 9 AM-3 PM  
Hocking Valley Community Hospital  
601 S.R. 664 N., Logan**  
***Please call first to schedule an appointment  
and receive instructions. Call 740-380-8218.***

During this uncertain time, the Red Cross encourages individuals to keep scheduled blood, platelet or AB Elite plasma donation appointments and to make new donation appointments for the weeks ahead to ensure a stable supply throughout this pandemic.

Donating blood products is essential to community health and the need for blood products is constant. As part of our nation's critical infrastructure, healthy individuals can still donate in areas that have issued shelter in place declarations. The Red Cross follows the highest standards of safety and infection control, and volunteer donors are the only source of blood for those in need.

There is no known end date in this

fight against coronavirus and the Red Cross needs the help of blood and platelet donors and blood drive hosts to maintain a sufficient blood supply for weeks to come. In times of crisis, the Red Cross is fortunate to witness the best of humanity as people roll up a sleeve to help those in need.

### Safety Protocols

There are no data or evidence that this coronavirus can be transmissible by blood transfusion, and there have been no reported cases worldwide of transmissions for any respiratory virus including this coronavirus.

Donating blood products is essential to community health and eligible donors are strongly urged to

## Direct to You: From Roy Davis

The last two weeks have changed the world for all of us and made the future look very uncertain in every part of our lives. I am



Roy Davis,  
Director of  
Operations

asking everyone to keep fighting for the future and not give up hope. We as an organization are going through a change unparalleled in our history and certainly it is happening in everybody's personal life. I want to talk about our roles and how we can help within the system, but also in the community.

- **Think today-** information is coming in from all directions and we have to make quick changes based on rules coming in from the federal/state government, the Ohio Department of Health, and CMS. Sometimes these rules are completely reversed from the previous day and we must learn to adjust quickly in a chaotic world.

- **Get grounded-** please take care of yourself physically and mentally because this will not be a short duration. Take time to eat right, get some exercise, get plenty of sleep, and seek help if needed. We have plenty of options if you need help, and if you need to talk to your provider take the time to do so.

- **Focus on the basics-** One of my first jobs

was working in infectious disease and many of the patients had AIDS and tuberculosis. TB is a true airborne disease so every day before we would go into the room, I could hear the sergeant in charge of that ward say the same thing over and over with a baritone voice, "plan your trips into the room so that you only have to make one trip, take your time donning and doffing, check your teammates to make sure they are properly dressed, and we are not asking you to do anything that we would not do." We as leaders are ready to work side by side with you so that we can get through this together.

- **The power of you-** We are looked at to advise people about their health during normal times and now we are being looked at through a microscope at how we behave and answer questions. It is alright to say "I don't know, we do not have all the answers yet," and "Yes it is scary, but we will get through this." Please be careful with your comments and reposts on social media because we want to give accurate information and not false hope with miracle cures or bad information that induces a panic.

- **Come together-** These times are so hard and unpredictable and we need everyone to come together and probably take on jobs they never dreamed of doing. We have to function as one team to get through these uncharted waters.



The 2020 Census is happening now. Your answers can shape your future. For the first time, you can choose to respond online, by phone, or by mail. Census results help determine how billions of dollars in federal funding flow into states and communities each year.

The results determine how many seats in Congress each state gets.

It's mandated by the U.S. Constitution in Article 1, Section 2: The U.S. has counted its population every 10 years since 1790.

As of 4/3/20, Hocking County had a 34.2% response rate to the census. Let's keep that number climbing and represent our region!

Learn more at [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov).

## TWIG II Plant Sale Canceled

With social distancing guidelines extended until April 30, the scheduled TWIG II plant sale has been canceled.

HVCH Cafeteria Menu April 6-April 10				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Spaghetti Casserole Chicken Fingers Potato Wedges Carrots Broccoli Breadstick Tomato Soup	Philly Steak N' Cheese Macaroni & Cheese Onion Rings Baked Potato Cauliflower Spinach Chili	Breaded Chicken Breast/Bun Italian Sausage/ Bun French Fried Seasoned Corn Green Beans Blended Veggies Chicken Soup	Breakfast Pizza Sausage Gravy & Biscuits Egg Omelette Taquito Oven Browns Bacon Broccoli Soup	Tortilla Tilapia Macaroni & cheese Potato Wedges Carrots Brussels w/ Bacon Breaded Cauliflower Enchilada Soup

## Hospital Finance Update from CFO Julie Grow

During this time, I think it is important to give you a weekly update on what we learn each week about the different funding sources that are starting to surface as a result of the CARES Act. There are many, many, layers to this legislation, but for purposes of this update, I will be focusing mostly on those programs that will provide funding avenues to the hospital and medical group. I highly encourage you to review the CARES Act to see how you personally, could benefit from some of the provisions.

Since the update last week, there has been a flurry of activity while everyone tries to sort through all the details. This information is constantly changing and might be different next week, but here is what we know today:

To begin, the sharp decline in revenue we saw as a result of the Governor's order to cease all elective procedures in an effort to preserve PPE has thankfully leveled off. We now have over two weeks of data to evaluate the effects of ongoing cash flow. Had we not made the changes we did, we would be spending over \$12,500 more per day than we were bringing in. As you know, we have always operated on very slim margins due to our large number of Medicare, Medicaid, and charity care patients. There is no way we could have sustained this for very long. With the changes to staffing, operations, and ordering, we are now running nearly at break even... as long as revenue continues to hold steady. But, we cannot take our eye off the financial wellbeing of the hospital and must explore every avenue possible to ensure we can get as much funding as we can to get us through this.

As for the legislation provisions that continue to be rolled out:

- There has been little to no movement on the section of the CARES Act that earmarks \$117 billion to hospitals and health-care providers. Currently, the American Hospital Association is lobbying to at least give an initial distribution of \$25,000 per hospital bed to every hospital in the country and then work on the application process for the remaining amount in an effort to provide some immediate relief. This would be an initial cash grant of \$875,000. There is still a lot of work to do and unanswered questions surrounding this portion of the bill.

- Accelerated Payment Program – This is a cash advance from the Medicare program. Basically, they calculate the average amount you receive per month from Medicare and advance 3-6 months of those payments to you in a lump sum. Then after four months, they begin withholding your Medicare payments until the money is paid in full. This would be used as basically an internal line of credit and we would only release funds for use as we get word from each of the other grant programs that money is coming from. This is a LOAN only, but would provide approximately \$5 million of interest free working capital to use while we await the grant distributions.

- Payroll Protection Program – This program is run through the Small Business Association (SBA). You may also hear it referred to as the PPP or P3 loan. While it is structured as a loan, as long as payroll resumes to near pre-disaster levels by the

end of June and the loan is used to pay wages, rent, mortgages, and utilities, the loan will be forgiven. The hospital and medical group are applying for approximately \$3.7 million. This does not mean we will be guaranteed this money. The application process starts today and we have submitted the necessary documentation. However, these loans are facilitated through local banks who are existing SBA lenders and there will likely be thousands of loans to be processed at once. The guidance on this program has been very unclear to both the businesses and the lenders and will likely be a hectic process. Not to mention, there is only a finite amount of funds and a lot of small businesses across the country that will be applying for these loans. We very easily could get shut out of funding even though we filed our application on the first day the window opened.

- HCAP Funding – Due to the legislation rolling back the DSH cuts, our HCAP funding will be increased by \$519,000. In total HVCH will receive approximately \$1.2 million in HCAP funds. The Ohio Hospital Association is working with the state to try to move the date of distribution up to as quickly as possible. Typically, we receive these funds in August or September, but the sooner, the better.

- There continues to be discussions at the state level as to how the state can ease the financial burden of the hospitals, including franchise fee delay or forgiveness (\$170,000), increased Medicaid funding, and revising UPL distributions. We continue to monitor these discussions to see how this could impact us. There has been very little information released that would give providers an indication of how much financial support would come from the state level.

One of the other major challenges we have faced is not only availability of, but the rising cost of high demand supplies. Surgical masks that had a pre-epidemic price of pennies per mask are going for anywhere from .50 to \$2 per mask... and that is when we can even get our hands on them. The much sought after N95 masks that are typically around .30 each are going for up to \$5 each... again, when we are able to find distributors with availability. The price for sterilizing and reprocessing the N95s, while generating much needed availability, will cost over \$3 per mask. We've been quoted prices for hand sanitizer for \$100 per gallon! This causes added financial concerns that we must continue to monitor, while providing the much needed PPE to protect our staff and patients.

In closing, I want to leave you with a bit of advice... check on your healthcare friends, because we are not okay. In the past two weeks, I have been in awe at the number of people who have reached out to me, just to ask if I am doing okay. I've heard from colleagues, mentors, friends from grade school, teachers, neighbors, auditors, you name it, and all have in one form or another provided me with support and left me with the message, "We've got this." This is a scary time for all of us, both at the hospital and at home. Yet, we are all in this together. We'll weather this storm and come out stronger than before. HVCH... "We've got this."

## BLOOD

donate blood, platelets, or AB Elite plasma. The Red Cross only collects blood from individuals who are healthy and feeling well at the time of donation – and who meet other eligibility requirements.

At each blood drive or donation center, Red Cross employees follow thorough safety protocols, including:

- Wearing gloves and changing them often
- Wiping down donor-touched areas after every collection
- Using sterile collection sets for every donation
- Preparing the arm for donation with aseptic scrub
- Conducting donor mini-physicals to ensure donors are healthy and well on day of donation

Red Cross also has increased vigilance concerning some of these safety protocols including:

- Enhanced disinfecting of surfaces and equipment
- Providing hand sanitizer for use before entering and throughout the donation appointment
- Temperature checks before presenting donors enter the blood drive or donation center
- Following social distancing practices between donors including donor beds, as well as waiting and refreshment areas
- During this time, blankets typically used by platelet, Power Red and AB Elite donors at Red Cross blood donation centers will be laundered after each use, which may limit the availability.
- Staff wearing basic face masks

To ensure staff are healthy each day, Red Cross has implemented standard staff health assessments prior to all blood drives.

Finally, only eligible and healthy people are allowed to give blood.

These mitigation measures will help ensure blood recipient safety, as well as staff and donor safety in reducing contact with those who may potentially have this respiratory infection.

The American Red Cross has implemented new blood donation deferrals out of an abundance of caution. They are asking that individuals postpone their donation for 28 days following:

- Travel to China and its special administrative regions, Hong Kong and Macau, as well as Iran, Italy and South Korea.
- Diagnosis of COVID-19, contact with a person who has the virus, or is suspected to have it.

As the situation evolves, the Red Cross will continue to evaluate all emerging risks in collaboration with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and industry partners to determine if additional intervention strategies are needed.

## Final day of Ohio Primary Election April 28



On March 25, 2020, the Ohio General Assembly passed H.B. 197, a sweeping piece of legislation aimed at dealing with the state's response to the Coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic. Among other items, the bill sets April 28, 2020 as the final day of Ohio's primary election.

Request your vote by mail ballot at [VoteOhio.gov](http://VoteOhio.gov) or by calling your local board of elections.

**I VOTED BY MAIL OR IN PERSON BEFORE MARCH 17, 2020, DO I NEED TO VOTE AGAIN?**

No, all ballots already submitted by mail or in-person will count, so long as they were otherwise valid. If you voted prior to March 17th your ballot is secured behind double locks at your county board of elections and will be counted on April 28th. Please encourage friends and family who haven't already voted to request a Vote-by-Mail ballot from your local board of elections.

**WILL THERE BE IN-PERSON VOTING ON APRIL 28, 2020?**

Yes, but since most Ohioans are being advised to stay home right now, the new law only allows for limited in-person voting on April 28th. In-person voting will only occur on April 28 and only at boards of elections early vote centers, not at precinct polling locations. And in-person voting will only be available for individuals with disabilities who require in-person voting and those who do not have a home mailing address.

**WHAT IS THE DEADLINE TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN THE 2020 PRIMARY?**

The deadline to register for the 2020 primary election was February 18, 2020. Anyone who is eligible to vote, but has not yet registered, can do so for the November 3, 2020 General Election, at [VoteOhio.gov](http://VoteOhio.gov) (opens in a new window).

**WHEN WILL THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTION BE ANNOUNCED?**

Tabulation of votes will begin on April 28, 2020 after 7:30 p.m. It's important to note that ballots postmarked by April 27, 2020 will all be counted, so final unofficial results won't be available until May 8, 2020. (This is standard for every election.)



# HOCKING VALLEY Community Hospital

## OUR MISSION

*To provide our community an unparalleled patient experience through world class service that is both compassionate and professional.*

## OUR VISION

*To provide extraordinary care close to home now and into the future.*

HVCH is a critical-access hospital located in the city of Logan, Ohio, which serves residents in Hocking and surrounding counties. With more than 325 employees, our staff is here to serve the residents and visitors of our Hocking Valley community through various ancillary and emergency care services. HVCH is Joint Commission accredited, and we offer a wide range of primary, acute, and rehabilitative services. We are pleased to provide 24-hour emergency services to our patients through our ER and Urgent Care. Additionally, our surgical center, rehabilitation center, physical therapy clinic, pain control and wound clinic, imaging, laboratory, cardiovascular/cardiopulmonary, sleep clinic, geriatric psychiatric, and oncology services are also available. We are proud of our facility. HVCH is affiliated with OSUWMC, improving healthcare services to the Hocking and surrounding counties in the areas of general surgery and orthopaedics. HVCH also is a part of the Ohio State Health Network.