



Petersburg Medical Center

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PRESS RELEASE

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From: Petersburg Medical Center

Crisis standards of care provide guidelines for administering care in extraordinary circumstances in which there are insufficient resources to provide levels of care that patients would normally get. ADDENDUM NO. 1* COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY ORDER SEPTEMBER 21, 2021, authorizes hospitals in Alaska to implement all flexibilities for hospitals, psychiatric hospitals, critical access hospitals, and long-term care hospitals and skilled nursing facilities to adjust scope of practice guidelines.

Petersburg Medical Center has not activated Crisis Standards of Care; however, the following situations that could impact our operations are being closely monitored:

1. Inability to transfer ill patients to higher level of care, creating a surge of hospitalized patients at PMC.
2. Staffing shortages that would impact the types of care provided to our patients
3. Supply shortages (testing supplies, medications, blood products)

PMC Scarce Resource: One resource the hospital has an *extremely* limited supply of is **monoclonal antibodies** which are provided to patients who have high risk for severe COVID illness. Our providers will be carefully reviewing medical history of positive cases to determine those patients who would most benefit from this treatment.

PCR testing supplies will likely become limited given the high rate of daily testing. Test ordering strategies will be utilized to prioritize most acute needs to same day testing and other requests will have a 2–4-day turnaround time.

Two resources that are not in limited supply are masks and vaccinations.

1. Masking, while not perfect, has been proven to minimize spread of COVID infections to others.
2. Vaccinations are available through Public Health, PMC and Rexall. Vaccination is the best protection against infection, hospitalization, and death.

Resources for Crisis Standards of Care from the State of Alaska:

*<https://gov.alaska.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/COVID-19-PUBLIC-HEALTH-EMERGENCY-ADDENDUM-NO-1-Final.pdf>

https://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/siteassets/pages/HumanCoV/DHSS_FAQ_CSC_20210923.pdf

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