COVID-19 Response in Rural Eastern North Carolina

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Emergency Department Medical Director
Vidant Community Hospitals
Vidant Health

- Not for Profit Health Care System
- Covers over 1.4 million people
- Across 29 county area of Eastern NC
- Over 12,000 employees
- Made of Nine Hospitals
- Has One Level 1 Trauma Center and eight Community Hospitals
• Vidant Medical Center heart of the Vidant Health System
• A roughly 1,000 bed Level 1 trauma center that is the teaching hospital for East Carolina’s Brody School of Medicine
• Eight Community Hospitals with ED Volumes ranging 15,000 – 40,000 yearly
• EASTCARE one of the busiest hospital based transport services in the U.S. (5 helicopters 24hrs./daily with numerous ground units)
• Acute Inpt./Outpt.
• Emergency Department
• Post Acute (Ambulatory and Community)
• EastCare
• Environmental Impact
• East Carolina Testing Initiative
• Communications/Human Resources
Streamlined decision making processes
• No initial in house availability
• Send out 7-10 turnaround
• Testing Algorithm and Clinical Timeline
• Developed testing group
• Now have 4 testing platforms
• Two rapid tests and batch testing availability to perform 1500 tests daily
• Added Serology Testing
• NC DHHS Testing Initiative VH chosen 4 counties
• Admitted PUI’s
• Screening all Admitted Patients
• Screening all Surgical Patients
• Ambulatory Testing Sites
- Initial Stockpile
- PPE Guidelines
- Burn Rate
- Supply Chain
- Explore reuse and storage
- Protocols Barrier Devices
• Integrated tightly into COVID
• Changes on the fly
• Ability to flex
• Orders, Order Sets, and Discharge Instructions
• COVID Reference Manual on Learning Home Dashboard
• Meeting cadence daily, 3 times weekly, weekly and now monthly
• Medical Director Group, Nurse Mgr. Group & EMS
• Meet both individually and together
• Linked with Systems and procedures
• Standardized decision making
• Examples Airway mgmt., oxygenation, treatment protocols, etc...
• PUI treatment areas
• Forward Triage
• Home Monitoring of patients from ED and Inpt. discharge
• Care Coordination
• Follows patients by protocol
• Hands off to PCP when appropriate
• Unassigned patients
• NC DHHS State Testing Initiative 2000 tests 6.9% positive
• Screening all surgery cases 1% pos.
• Screening all admissions not PUI 1.5% pos.
• ED Testing suspected PUI’s DC’ed pts. 6-8% pos.
• ED Testing Admitted pts. Suspected PUI 6-8% pos.
Remote initial evaluation of ED PUI’s by Hospitalist Service
Remote Tele ICU for Community Hospitals without Pulmonology/Critical Care
Virtual Visits computer and phone app
Telephone visits
Daily Census - IP, ICU, Vent

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Vidant Health – ED Governance – Data

Vidant Health Weekly Covid-19 PCR Laboratory Testing

Week ending with

- 14-Mar
- 21-Mar
- 28-Mar
- 4-Apr
- 11-Apr
- 18-Apr
- 25-Apr
- 2-May
- 9-May
- 16-May
- 23-May
- 30-May
- 6-Jun
- 13-Jun
- 20-Jun
- 27-Jun
- 4-Jul
- 11-Jul
- 18-Jul

Weekly Test Volume

- 1
- 49
- 238
- 450
- 723
- 965
- 1214
- 1603
- 2222
- 2459
- 5757
- 2677
- 2945
- 6.6
- 3355
- 3517
- 3760
- 3741
- 5090
- 7641

Percent Positive

- 0.0
- 1.0
- 2.0
- 3.0
- 4.0
- 5.0
- 6.0
- 7.0
- 8.0
- 9.0
- 10.0
- 11.0
- 12.0
- 13.0
- 14.0
- 15.0
- 16.0

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Questions