



Northern Light
HealthSM

COVID-19 Impact Update

Health and Human Services Committee
January 28, 2022

Lisa Harvey-McPherson RN, MBA, MPPM
Vice President Government Relations

January 18, 2022

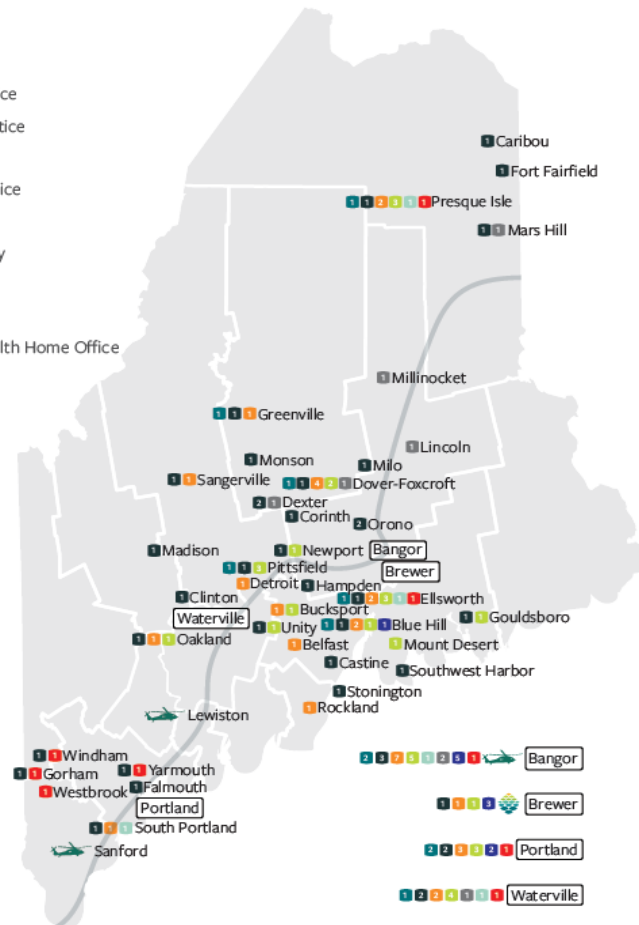
Northern Light Health



Northern Light Health™

Sites of Care

- Hospital
- Primary Care Practice
- Specialty Care Practice
- Outpatient
- Home Care & Hospice
- Long-Term Care
- Lab/Retail Pharmacy
- Walk-In Care
- LifeFlight of Maine
- Northern Light Health Home Office
- Interstate



Northern Light Health COVID-19 Snapshot

- 373,900 COVID-19 vaccine doses administered
- 411,747 COVID-19 tests performed
- Current one week positivity rate is 29.06%
- 322 COVID-19 patients cared for in our hospitals in the past 30 days
- 2,547 monoclonal antibody doses administered to positive COVID-19 patients in our outpatient clinics

Inpatient Hospital Census Trends Continue

COVID-19 Vaccinations Prevent Hospitalization



116 HOSPITALIZED

56 VACCINATED 60 UNVACCINATED



UNDER 60

OVER 60

18 IN ICU

7 VACCINATED 11 UNVACCINATED

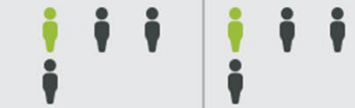


UNDER 60

OVER 60

8 ON VENTILATORS

2 VACCINATED 6 UNVACCINATED



UNDER 60

OVER 60

63 is the average age for currently hospitalized patients, but younger vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals are being treated as well.



COVID hospitalizations January 26, 2022 | Vaccinated patients have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, but may not be considered fully-vaccinated per CDC guidelines.

Long Stay Patients in Acute Care Beds

- One of our most **significant challenges** is a high volume of patients in acute care beds who qualified for discharge to nursing facility or skilled nursing care services.
- Consistent Trend – 80-100 long stay patients every day with lengths of stay extending to months and some up to a year
- Nursing Home staffing severely limit admissions to care
 - Pandemic reduced the national long-term care workforce by 30%
 - Northern Light Health partner homes lost 28% of clinical workforce
 - Housekeeping, dietary, and other support roles also experience turn over
- COVID-19 outbreaks in nursing facilities limits ability to admit new patients
- Maximized transfers to swing beds in critical access hospitals and discharges to Northern Light Home Care & Hospice to decompress acute care hospitals.
- While helpful, does not offset the need for nursing facility discharges throughout Maine.

Northern Light Health Hospital Impact

EMMC has cared for the highest volume of COVID-19 hospitalized patients and represents the most significant impact among our hospitals.

- EMMC inpatient census is generally at full capacity every day
 - Patients in need of transfer to EMMC for tertiary care services routinely held in regional hospitals due to lack of bed availability at EMMC (20-50 patients per day)
 - Patients in the emergency department also experiencing long stays due to lack of inpatient beds (15-18 patients per day)
 - Increased volume of behavioral health patients in the emergency department waiting for an inpatient bed at a psychiatric hospital (Acadia generally has 30-50 patients in emergency care statewide in need of admission)
 - Since January 1, 107 elective inpatient medical procedures have been delayed due to insufficient inpatient bed capacity
 - Significant staffing challenges and the financial effect of traveling staff not sustainable
 - 27 inpatient beds (including five ICU beds) closed in January. Evaluating closure of additional beds over the next few weeks

Northern Light Health Hospital Impact

- Rural and critical access hospitals are caring for acute COVID-19 patients. When needed, staff transition from outpatient settings to assist with inpatient care
- Rural hospitals are also affected by lack of nursing home beds and long stay patients in emergency departments who need acute or behavioral health inpatient care
- Regional acute care capacity challenges in western and southern Maine increase the COVID-19 patient volume at Mercy Hospital
- Delayed elective procedures and surgical services during peak COVID-19 patient care volume
- Nurses in non-clinical roles transition to acute care settings to provide care
- Home Care & Hospice clinicians caring for COVID-19 patients at home throughout the state. Home Care also serves as our mobile health team, providing various services including vaccinating vulnerable populations and older adults in senior housing

Staffing Challenges

- Combination of vacant positions and employees out with COVID-19 exposure, quarantine, or recovery
- Currently, 618 employees out of work. Our previous peak was 603
- Employees are vaccinated so severity of illness is low to moderate for COVID-19 positive staff
- Currently at CDC Contingency Staffing for return to work, employees must test negative
- 2018 Report - Maine's nursing workforce shortage projected to be 2,700 RNs by 2025. Updated projection expected soon.
- Northern Light Health historically recruited 200-300 RN's annually, today recruiting for 500 RN positions.
- COVID-19 vaccine mandate - only 3.04% of employees left employment
- Cost of travelers has increased significantly, not sustainable. Maine competes with hospitals across the country for traveler staff
- American Hospital Association working with Congress. White House urged to investigate price gouging by staffing agencies
- Staff challenge not limited to RNs – certified nursing assistants, surgical technicians, medical assistants, imaging technicians, laboratory personnel, and ambulance staff all in short supply

National Guard Support

- On Dec. 16, six national guard members were deployed to Northern Light Health. Guard members assisted with monoclonal antibody infusion clinics in Bangor, Waterville, and Portland
- On Jan. 14, 16 additional national guard members were deployed to EMMC. They were assigned to monitor long-term care patients so RNs and nursing assistants could be re-assigned to medically complex acute care patients

FEMA Support for Ambulance Transport
















- Interfacility ambulance transport is a significant challenge for hospitals. When ambulances are not available patients can wait for extended periods before being discharged or transferred to the level of care they need. Ambulance staffing challenges have made this situation worse.
- Ambulances continue to struggle financially. Legislation passed regarding commercial carrier payments has not been adopted quickly or universally by carriers, and MaineCare increases have not yet been implemented.
- In January, FEMA deployed an ambulance and two emergency service personnel to EMMC to support interfacility transportation to and from EMMC. We are working to extend this support through February.
- Starting Jan 28th FEMA will deploy an ambulance & staff to Aroostook County to support all 4 hospitals with transfers.

National Supply Chain Challenges Continue to Impact Health Care










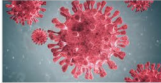
- Northern Light Health supply chain team members are essential to our ability to respond to the pandemic as the national medical supply chain continues to be challenged with distribution and adequate volume of supplies
- Medical supply orders are accepted by vendors with delivery confirmation dates often pushed out due to distribution challenges.
- In 2020, we partnered with the Ntension Corporation in Hermon to produce masks. Ntension continues to be the major supplier of medical masks for us
- General public interest in wearing medical grade N-95 masks will likely stress the volume of masks needed to meet healthcare demand for the product
- Today, we are challenged to get the supplies necessary for COVID-19 testing for both hospital/clinical lab supplies and at-home testing for our employees

Supporting our Staff

- Wage adjustments have been implemented to support entry level workers
- Bonuses for nursing clinical schedules to meet patient care needs.
- Acadia Hospital programs support our employees

Healthy Life Resources	Work Force EAP	Strengthen ME
 Self-Guided Support	 1:1 Counseling Services	 1:1 Confidential Work/Life Coaching
 Leadership Support	 Facilitated Support Groups	 Workshops for Frontline Healthcare Workers
 Crisis Management Briefings	 After-Hours Case Management Calls	 Lunch & Learn Wellness Workshops
 Critical Incident Stress Debriefings	 Trainings	 10-Minute Guided Relaxation Breaks
 Panel Discussions		 Maine Frontline Warmline
		 Wellness & Connection Groups

COVID-19

 Get a Test	 Get Vaccinated	 Get Treatment	
 Group Vaccine Request	 Press Briefings	 Volunteer	 Vaccination Cards
 Preventing the Spread of COVID-19 Poster and Graphic Downloads How can I protect myself? What is social distancing?	 Caring for yourself and others who are sick What are the symptoms? What to do if you are sick.	 General Information about COVID-19 COVID-19 Vaccine Information What is COVID-19? Where are my test results? Long Term Care Staff Testing Results Maine CDC Lost Vaccination Card	

Northern Light Health COVID-19 Web Page

<https://northernlighthealth.org/Resources/COVID-19>