

OhioHealth Volunteers,                                                                    March 13, 2020

As you’re already aware, restrictions concerning potential exposure for the COVID-19 are an evolving situation. OhioHealth is closely monitoring updates related to the COVID-19 virus coming from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH). OhioHealth is refining response plans to ensure our procedures reflect the most current recommendations for maintaining the safety of our patients, staff, volunteers and community. You are a vital part of our team at Riverside Methodist and we place high priority on your health and safety. With that in mind, we are suspending volunteer services as described below:

**Based on CDC guidelines for high risk populations, we will suspend in-person volunteering for the following volunteers/programs at ALL OhioHealth Hospitals, OhioHealth Hospice, McConnell Heart Health Center and our ambulatory locations starting Monday 3/16/20:**

* **Volunteers age 60 and older**
* **Teen Volunteers**
* **Volunteers between 18-59 with compromised immune systems**
* **Pet Therapy, Cookie Cart, High Tea, Nursery and NICU volunteers**
* **New Volunteer Orientation**

**These suspensions will be in effect for an initial period of 30 days.** We understand and appreciate your commitment to Riverside and will hold your position and look forward to your return.

Volunteers who do not fall into any of the above categories should continue to serve at their comfort level, depending on their health history and area of service. Please know we understand if you are not comfortable serving at this time. We will hold your volunteer position and look forward to when you can return. Please be sure to keep us informed as you make changes to your volunteer status.

We are committed to sending you updates as information becomes available. We encourage everyone who is looking to connect with loved ones receiving care in a healthcare setting to do so remotely through digital channels such as FaceTime and Skype instead of in-person visits. We encourage *you* to stay connected with your fellow volunteers, and our office, during this time.

Thank you for your understanding and your continued commitment to the health and safety of our patients, guests, families, volunteers and staff!

Please reach out to me or any member of the Volunteer Services team if you have any questions. With the high volume of calls we are receiving, please leave a voicemail and we will return your call.

*Thank you for your service to our patients, families, guests and staff!*

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