Memorial Health System
Screening Patients at COVID-19 Respiratory Clinics

Safety for the community and healthcare professionals on the front lines: That was the goal behind the two respiratory screening clinics Memorial Health System created for COVID-19, one at South Six ExpressCare in Springfield and the other at DMH Express Care in Decatur.

As one of the state’s leading healthcare organizations, Memorial Health System put its organizational might behind keeping potential COVID-19 patients separate from others seeking care. With the threat of COVID-19 growing in mid-March, the health system opened the two clinics with a well-organized patient screening process.

“In order to ensure the safety of our community, we want people who have symptoms of COVID-19 to avoid walking into the emergency room or their physician's clinic,” said Drew Early, president and CEO of Decatur Memorial Hospital.

The two respiratory screening clinics are open seven days a week to anyone with a respiratory problem they suspect could be COVID-19. As part of the screening process:

- Community members are asked to call a hotline before they arrive.
- Healthcare professionals screen patients outside the clinic to determine the appropriate level of care.
- Those who need to be evaluated further—such as a chest X-ray for pneumonia—will enter the clinic through a separate entrance.

Anyone without an appointment is directed to designated parking to call and register first. Appointments also can be made on smartphones or tablets through the MemorialNow virtual care app.

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