

*President's Message***COVID-19 is Here to Stay,
So Let's Work Together!***By David A. Tam, MD, MBA, FACHE*

COVID-19 is a rapidly evolving situation. Please be aware that any information shared can change at any time.

Beebe is screening and testing patients. We cannot test every person because that would not be responsible. We are committed to screening as many as possible—even by phone. After the screening, those in need of testing are referred to one of Beebe's testing locations. The person doesn't have to get out of the car for the test.

For those without access to primary care, we have set a COVID-19 Screening Line (302-645-3200). With a simple call and drive to the testing location, patients can safely be tested while practicing isolation and social distancing—essential if you are not feeling well.

Our intention has been to share advice from state and national health authorities so that we do not overwhelm primary care offices, walk-ins, or emergency departments. The emergency department should only be used for emergency care. This also helps Beebe conserve a vital resource: personal protective equipment that is in short supply. These protocols not only assist you, but also help us keep our team safe.

**OPTIMIZING OUR OPERATIONS TO
CARE FOR PATIENTS AND STAFF**

We have made every effort to slow community spread with this process. That does not mean we are not prepared

for a sudden surge. The next pillar of our strategy is to make sure that every scenario is accounted for—we optimize beds and space at our Margaret H. Rollins Lewes Campus for a surge, but we also rethink our colleagues' roles.

Many highly-skilled team members can assist from outpatient areas that are no longer as busy with the cancellation of elective procedures and suspension of certain diagnostic testing. We are training and preparing our teams now to take care of our community if a surge does indeed happen.

I can promise you—all options are being considered. Reach out to your Physician Liaison Jeff Peirce at jpeirce@beebehealthcare.org if you need more information or specific materials.

We are Beebe and we are here for you.

David A. Tam, MD, MBA, FACHE, assumed the role of Beebe Healthcare President & CEO on March 17. He is a distinguished and accomplished administrator and has experiences as an



officer in the United States Navy and in large public health systems. He completed his pediatrics residency at the US Naval Hospital in Oakland, California, and a pediatric neurology fellowship at the Medical College of Virginia.



Letter from Dr. Hawtof

You are amazing Sussex County!

Healthcare workers are on the front line during this crisis and the preparations that we all have made will prepare us to face this virus when he hits his full force and Sussex County. Dr. David Tam, the President and CEO of Beebe Healthcare, stated the following:

"Unlike any other disaster we have worked through, this COVID-19 global pandemic is new to all of us, and I recognize the stress that it creates for us in our personal and work lives. Within the past weeks we have seen people we know or are even related to that have been laid off from their jobs or have great uncertainty with their jobs."

Here are some updates from Beebe:

1. We are focusing on screening. We have a Screening Line open for those without primary care providers to call: 302-645-3200. When someone calls, they are assessed over the phone. If testing is deemed necessary, they are given an appointment at one of Beebe's testing locations throughout Sussex County. They drive up to the testing site and are tested while they remain in their car. No walk-up testing is permitted at our testing sites. Everyone must have a doctor's order or appointment.
2. Providers may refer their screened positive patients to the testing sites. You should have received instructions on how to do this. If you need additional information or support, contact your Physician Liaison Jeff Peirce at jpeirce@beebehealthcare.org.
3. All medical teams: This is not "business as usual." We need all hands on deck to play a role in this. This includes our doctor's offices, medical providers, and staff. Each person is responsible for providing the best care to our patients and our community. By communicating proactively with our patients and our teams, we can get people screened and then tested. This will

vastly help Beebe predict what we should expect in terms of people getting very sick and needing critical care.

Beebe continues to monitor the situation and make updates to our policies as necessary. We have updated our visitor restrictions and have implemented screening stations at the hospital for all entering the facility.

To stay up-to-date with how Beebe is responding and our updated policies, go to: www.beebehealthcare.org/patients-visitors/public-health-information

Additionally, there are other resources that are helpful for medical teams and staff:

- [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/index.html)
- [coronavirus.delaware.gov/](https://www.coronavirus.delaware.gov/) is the State of Delaware's website for information

Because the situation is so rapidly changing, we are sending out an email to all of our medical staff and other providers in the County who want to be kept updated on the ever-changing crisis. I am sending out information almost daily by email. If you would like to be on this email list, please let me know and we will add you. Email me at jhawtof@beebehealthcare.org. Please let me know your name, specialty, and if you are interested in helping out in any way if our surge of patients at the hospital becomes overwhelming. Even if you cannot help out, but want to receive the updates, you are welcome to them. Again, you are the front lines of this crisis and the entire County thanks you!

Jeffrey Hawtof, MD, Vice President of Medical Operations

New Procedure

TAVR—Life-Saving Innovation

Beebe offers TAVR, a transcatheter aortic valve replacement procedure (TAVR), which is less invasive than open heart surgery. The entire procedure typically takes approximately 1–2 hours.

Beebe's interventional cardiology team launched the new TAVR program in March.

THE PROCEDURE

Beebe's interventional cardiology team performs the TAVR procedure in the state-of-the-art hybrid operating room at Beebe's Margaret H. Rollins Lewes Campus.

During the procedure, the anesthesiologist determines whether a mild sedative or general anesthesia will be used.

The interventional cardiologist makes a small incision in either the groin, the neck, or a space between your ribs.

PATIENTS ELIGIBLE FOR TAVR

Patients who have severe aortic stenosis (ssAS) would benefit from the TAVR procedure. Patients who are at a low-risk of complications are excellent candidates for TAVR.

They may experience symptoms such as chest pain, shortness of breath, dizziness or fainting. Patients with ssAS often have a high calcium score.

Talk to your patients about their heart

health and determine if they might be candidates for TAVR.

BEEBE PARTNERS WITH MEDTRONIC

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration recently approved an expanded indication of the Medtronic Evolut™ TAVR system for use in low risk symptomatic severe aortic stenosis patients, the final surgical risk category to be approved for this minimally invasive alternative to open-heart surgical valve replacement (SAVR).

The Medtronic Evolut PRO+ is approved for patients who are low-risk and who might have smaller access vessels. The Evolut PRO+ is a wire and mesh system that is smaller than other TAVR products.

LEARN MORE: Ask your Beebe Physician Liaison Jeff Peirce for a fact sheet on TAVR.

Tell your patients: Beebe offers TAVR and has educational materials and video available: www.beebehealthcare.org/services/cardiology/interventional-cardiology.

Mouhanad Freih, MD



Welcome to Beebe

TO CONTACT THE BEEBE MEDICAL STAFF OFFICE, CALL 302-645-3499.

PHYSICIANS

- ▶ Christopher Duke, MD
Family Practice
- ▶ Katelin Haley, DO
Family Practice
- ▶ Lisa Kaiser, DO
Pulmonary/ICU
- ▶ Mark Morgan, DO
Family Practice
- ▶ Faisal Niazi, MD
Hospitalist

ALLIED HEALTH

- ▶ Kimberly Beddow, AGNP
Pulmonary/ICU
- ▶ Patricia Lawson, FNP
Family Practice
- ▶ Logan Mathews, PA-C
Emergency Medicine
- ▶ Millicent McMullen, FNP
Family Practice
- ▶ Clifford Schumacker, PA-C
Family Practice
- ▶ Mandy Simon, DNP
Family Practice
- ▶ Christina Sykes, CNM
OB/GYN
- ▶ Carol Willey, FNP
Family Practice

Announcement

Beebe Achieved Exceptional Ratings

Beebe Healthcare achieved several exemplary ratings in the latest American College of Surgeons National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (NSQIP) Report for surgeries taking place from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. Compared to other hospitals participating in the ACS NSQIP, a Beebe Healthcare patient was less likely to have the one of the complications listed below during that time frame:

- Lowest rates of Morbidity (which includes surgical site infections and other complications) in all surgical specialties combined.
- Lowest rates of Cardiac events during surgery or post-operatively (no CPR or Myocardial Infarctions) in all surgical specialties combined.
- Lowest rates of Surgical Site Infections for all surgical specialties combined.
- Lowest rates of Cardiac events (no CPR or Myocardial Infarctions) for patients having general surgery.
- Lowest rates of Death or Serious Morbidity during surgery in patients over the age of 65.
- Lowest rates of Morbidity in patients who had all types of orthopedic surgeries.
- Lowest rates of Surgical Site Infections in patients who had all types of orthopedic surgeries.
- Lowest rates of Surgical Site Infections in patients who had total knee replacements.
- Lowest rates of Morbidity in patients who had urology procedures.



Beebe Now is published by Beebe Healthcare to present health information to the medical professionals of Delmarva.

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