

# MEDIA STATEMENT: Dec. 29, 2020

## **UW Medicine | Valley Medical Center Works with Public Health in Response to COVID-19 Incident**

As the novel coronavirus continues to spread across the state and the nation, Valley Medical Center has identified several staff members and patients who tested positive with COVID-19 on an inpatient step-down unit. We have taken measures to prevent further spread and ongoing surveillance testing and monitoring is in place. The visitor policy was further restricted to prevent community-acquired spread into the facility, the unit has undergone widespread testing and staff testing positive are recovering at home and receiving appropriate medical care.

Infection Prevention and Employee Health have worked closely with hospital leadership and in consultation with Public Health—Seattle & King County to assist in this investigation and prevent further spread. Policies requiring continuous masking, physical distancing, frequent hand washing, and frequent cleaning of high-touch surfaces remain in place at all hospital and clinic facilities and are also key behaviors for home and public spaces to prevent community-acquired spread. We take our commitment to safety very seriously and are dedicated to providing care in a safe and healthy environment.