SOUTHPORT—Dosher Memorial Hospital is closely monitoring developments regarding COVID-19, also known as Novel Coronavirus. “We’re reminding people to take the same steps they would normally take to avoid catching a virus, such as washing their hands frequently, covering their mouths when they sneeze or cough, not touching their face, and staying home when they’re sick,” said Lisa Tyson, RN, COHN-S, Dosher’s Infection Preventionist.

The hospital has protocols in place to deal with emerging infectious diseases, including patient travel history screenings and a mask-wearing policy for certain symptoms.

Hospital officials are staying current on the latest information through the CDC COVID-19 website and our state and local health department websites, as this is a rapidly evolving situation. The current immediate health risk to the general public is considered low at this time.

Persons who are experiencing symptoms such as a fever, cough or shortness of breath and have visited countries with elevated travel advisories or had close contact with someone who is suspected to have COVID-19 in the past 14 days should seek immediate medical attention.

- Before you go to the doctor’s office, emergency room or urgent care, call ahead and tell them your symptoms and recent travel history.
- Avoid contact with others.
- Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.
- Do not travel while sick.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
Given the information about COVID-19 and the spread of the virus is rapidly changing, information is subject to change. The North Carolina Division of Public Health has established a call line at 1-866-462-3821 to address general questions about coronavirus from the public. More information can be found on the CDC, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services and Brunswick County Health Department websites.

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