Ebenezer Ridges TCU Media Statement

Media Statement
Due to an increasing need for a post-acute COVID-19 transitional care unit in the Twin Cities, Ebenezer Ridges Transitional Care Unit in Burnsville has been selected to serve as the COVID-19 specific transitional care unit for the M Health Fairview System. Beginning May 4th, this TCU will serve patients who are at less critical stages of the illness, but need strengthening or other standard transitional care services. We are working to transition current Ebenezer Ridges TCU patients to other TCUs within our system.

This move is in alignment with U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance, which recommends that healthcare systems implement a cohorting strategy for COVID-19 patient care to limit exposure of healthcare workers and other vulnerable patients to the virus and to preserve scarce supplies, such as personal protective equipment (PPE). Consolidating post-acute COVID-19 care at Ebenezer Ridges Transitional Care Unit helps maintain a safe and high quality care environment for patients and staff. It will allow us to centralize resources and provide specialized training so that we can meet the needs of this patient population with a well-trained, well-equipped staff.

Media Q&A

Why was this location chosen?
Ebenezer Ridges TCU is an ideal location for a new COVID-19 specialty facility due to its layout, secluded location on the Ridges campus, and proximity to M Health Fairview Ridges Hospital.

How many beds will Ridges TCU have for COVID-19 patients?
24

Who will be cared for here?
Ebenezer Ridges TCU will serve as the transitional care unit for patients recovering from COVID-19 who are not ready to be discharged back into the community. This facility will serve patients who are at less critical stages of COVID-19, but need strengthening or other standard transitional care services. Other considerations could be hospice, palliative care, or patients who are not being accepted back to their current communities.

How long do you expect patients to stay at Ridges TCU?
It will depend on patient status, need for rehabilitation and ability to return home safely. Each care plan will be individualized similar to any other post-acute Transitional Care stays.

How will you keep others in the community, including employees safe?
The health and safety of our employees and patients is our top priority. We are taking steps to maximize our infection control protocols for the newly designated COVID-19 TCU, as well as for the rest of the Ridges campus.

M Health Fairview Bethesda Hospital has already been repurposed to serve as the primary acute care hospital for COVID-19 positive patients. Ebenezer Ridges TUC infection prevention and control protocols
are aligned with CDC and MDH guidelines and similar to protocols in place at Bethesda Hospital including:

- Use of N95 respirators and PPE for all staff working with COVID-19 patients. (Staff will be provided with necessary PPE including N95 masks)
- Enforcing strict donning and doffing PPE procedures
- Designated parking for TCU staff
- Designated travel paths for TCU staff
- Enhanced external and internal signage
- Extensive communication
- Additional staffing on the TCU
- HVAC auditing

**What happens to the patients currently at Ebenezer Ridges TCU?**

We are working to transition current Ebenezer Ridges TCU patients to other TCUs within our system including: Aurora on France and Martin Luther Campus, in a timely and smooth manner. We have communicated these changes to residents and family members.

**Will this TCU utilize existing staff?**

Current Ebenezer Ridges TCU staff will retain their positions. Staff members may request redeployment to another Ebenezer Community. We will be increasing staffing ratios at Ebenezer TCU for Nurse and Nursing Assistants to 1:6.

**Will additional/specialized staff be required?**

We will be increasing staffing ratios at Ebenezer TCU for Nurse and Nursing Assistants to 1:6. Staff will be coming from the current Ebenezer Ridges TCU as well as from other parts of the M Health Fairview system and possibly from outside of the system. We are using the Bethesda training and adapting it for the TCU population. The unit won’t open until there is a full complement of trained staff. Target date is May 4th.