

## NEWS RELEASE



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### **PRESUMPTIVE POSITIVE COVID-19 PATIENT TREATED AT PALOMAR MEDICAL CENTER POWAY**

*Exposure risk to any hospital patient or staff is extremely low*

Palomar Health treated its first COVID-19 presumptive positive patient (CDC confirmation is still waiting). The patient was identified, isolated and treated in a negative pressure room upon arrival to the hospital. The risk of exposure to any other patient or staff is extremely low.

The patient arrived at the Palomar Medical Center (PMC) Poway Emergency Department on Friday, March 13. Following protocols put in place at PMC Poway and Escondido, staff screened the patient for the coronavirus before entering the hospital. He was found to be a possible carrier of the virus following CDC guidelines, was masked, and immediately taken to a negative pressure isolation room where he remained until his release. His test came back presumptive positive Sunday afternoon. His lab results are still waiting CDC final confirmation.

Proper procedures were followed at all times during treatment and anyone in contact with the patient wore Personal Protective Equipment (eye protection, mask, gloves, and gown) and is considered low risk for exposure. No staff restrictions or quarantines have resulted from exposure to the patient. Additionally, no other patients in the hospital are at risk for exposure.

The patient has been released home and is expected to make a full recovery.

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#### **About Palomar Health**

Established in 1948, the award-winning team at Palomar Health provides the most comprehensive health care in North San Diego County through its three medical centers and more than 900 affiliated medical providers serving more than half a million people. Palomar Health is San Diego County's only member of the Mayo Clinic Care Network and is nationally recognized as operating one of America's 250 Best Hospitals; a Best 100 Hospital for joint replacement and orthopedic surgery; a Best Hospital for stroke care, heart care and bariatric surgery; a Diabetes and Stroke Center of Excellence; and a Blue Distinction Center for spine surgery, cardiac care and maternity. Through its network of providers, Palomar Health offers medical services in virtually all fields of medicine including primary care, cardiovascular care, emergency services, trauma, cancer, orthopedics, women's health, behavioral health, rehabilitation, robotic surgery and bariatric surgery at offices strategically located throughout the North San Diego County region. For more information please visit [www.PalomarHealth.org](http://www.PalomarHealth.org). You can also follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).