Hospitals Responding to COVID-19

March 31, 2020
‘It will not be pretty’: Washington state preparing to make life-or-death decisions if coronavirus overwhelms health care system

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A staff member of a hospital in Brescia, Italy, tends to a patient in the intensive care unit. Italy’s health care system is crumbling under... (Claudio Furlan / The Associated Press) More →
A medical tent is erected outside of the emergency room at Yakima’s Virginia Mason Memorial hospital to triage and screen COVID-19 patients, March 18, 2020. (Emily McCarty/Crosscut)
Washington Hospitals Are Facing A Space And Supply Scarcity In The Fight Against Coronavirus
Seattle hospitals running dangerously low on protective gear

by Gabe Cohen, KOMO News Reporter  |  Monday, March 16th 2020

Medical Equipment Shortage

The Coronavirus Is Forcing Hospitals to Cancel Surgeries

Hospitals in hot spots like Seattle and New York are postponing elective surgeries, hoping to conserve resources as the outbreak escalates. More serious surgeries are also getting a second look.
Matt Ott works in a storage area at Dayton General. The hospital is short of items such as masks and hand sanitizer. (Nick Otto/For The Washington Post)
Confluence Health on Monday set up a temporary tent outside the emergency room entrance to Central Washington Hospital to triage patients who may have COVID-19, the illness caused by the novel coronavirus. Hospital staff will screen patients with possible respiratory infections in the triage tent to prevent potential spread of the virus inside the building.

World photo/Reilly Kneedler
Medical personnel wait for a driver to pull up at a drive-through COVID-19 testing station for University of Washington Medicine patients Tuesday, March 17, 2020, in Seattle, Wash.  (ELAINE THOMPSON/AP)