

Here's what you need to know and do.

Welcome to the Aspirus family. We're excited to have you on our team. We know you have questions as we integrate our health systems. Here are this week's updates and reminders.

Welcome Events

Aspirus will be holding a community welcome event at each hospital location the week of September 13. These events will be held outdoors, adhere to social distancing requirements with a purpose of connecting facility leaders with key community members to celebrate the integration of our health system. The events will include remarks from leaders and community partners and will feature a tree planting at each location. Here is the planned schedule of events:

Monday, September 13

10:30 am	St. Michael's Hospital	Stevens Point
1:30 pm	Good Samaritan Hospital	Merrill

Tuesday, September 14

Noon	Our Lady of Victory Hospital	Stanley
Noon	Eagle River Hospital	Eagle River
3:00 pm	Sacred Heart Hospital	Tomahawk

Thursday, September 16

Noon	St. Mary's Hospital	Rhineland
2:30 pm	Howard Young Medical Center	Woodruff

IT Infrastructure Walk-Through's

Aspirus Information Technology and its infrastructure team will be conducting walk-throughs at all integrated facilities to prepare for the Epic go-live and other technology changes coming later this year. The purpose is to identify and document Network Hardware, Wireless Networks, Telecom Systems and the necessary cable and other elements necessary to operate on the Aspirus IT platform. Field service representatives completed work this week in Merrill, Mosinee, Owen, Thorp and Stanley. In the coming weeks, they will perform this work at the following locations:

Date	Locations
Monday, August 30	Plover, Stevens Point (Hoover, Highway 10E, Wilshire, E. Maria Dr., Stanley Street, Prentice St., 2501 Main)
Tuesday, August 31	Wisconsin Rapids, Stevens Point (Illinois Ave)
Thursday, September 2	Amherst, Iola, Waupaca
Wednesday, September 8	Crandon, Rhineland (Kabel Ave, Timber Dr., Winnebago St.)
Thursday, September 9	Rhineland (North Shore Drive), Tomahawk
Monday, September 13	Woodruff, Eagle River (Hospital Rd and Wall St.)
Tuesday, September 14	Wausau (Westwood)

Recognition and Rewards Program Rollout

At Aspirus Health, we work with happiness and enthusiasm; we celebrate successes and build a positive environment! As you continue to integrate into the Aspirus family, we are excited to introduce the Aspirus Rewards & Recognition Program to you, giving you the opportunity to be recognized and recognize your peers in a variety of ways, beginning September 1! [Click Here for More Information.](#)

Policy Review to Be Completed by October 1

There are 11 policies outlined in orientation checklists that will become available in Policy Station, or around September 1 for viewing by all associates who have integrated from Ascension. Employees will have until October 1 to read them and complete sign off. We understand that several business units are due for their Joint Commission visit soon. Please be assured that Aspirus has an existing policy that allows for an implementation grace period post-acquisition.

Details on mandatory employee COVID-19 testing

Vaccination remains the safest, most effective way to prevent COVID-19 and severe illness, and vaccination clinics through Employee Health remain available. [Click here for current dates times and locations](#) or access them at the Aspirus intranet via Citrix. Additional vaccine opportunities for employees at integrated locations are also being developed and will be communicated when details are finalized.

Effective September 1, all employees who remain unvaccinated and have no COVID-19 symptoms will be required to perform a self-collection for COVID-19 PCR testing every other week. This includes staff working from home and it will be tracked as a condition of employment (COE).

Self-collection does not need to be completed if you are fully vaccinated, have started your vaccine series or have tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days. Self-collection must resume on the appropriate schedule for anyone remaining unvaccinated 90 days following a positive test. Any employee with COVID-19 symptoms, regardless of vaccination status, should follow the existing attestation process and perform any self-collection for testing as directed by Employee Health. Employees will be broken into two groups to allow Employee Health and the Aspirus Reference Lab to better manage and process results. The first week will be a bit longer due to Labor Day and collections beginning mid-week. **The breakdown is as follows:** Employees with a last name starting with A-M: September 1-11. Employees with last name starting with N-Z: September 12-18.

There is no cost to employees for testing and individuals have the entirety of your designated week to perform a self-collection. This every-other-week cadence should be followed going forward. Please refer to the frequently asked questions for additional details: [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Collection Process

Self-collections are to be performed on-site within an Aspirus building. Any exceptions are highlighted in the FAQ document linked above. Pre-made collection kits will not be used. The process and procedure are outlined in these instructions: [Self-Collection Instructions](#)

Do not contact Employee Health or the Lab for results. Employee Health will follow up with individuals only if there is a positive test result or sample concerns. Positive test results also are required to be reported to the state, which may also independently follow up with employees.

Test results are anticipated to be processed within 48 hours, though turnaround time will be dependent on the volume of both patient and employee tests.

Collection Locations

Aspirus is establishing locations for collections and supplies within all hospitals and more than 30 clinic locations. A full listing is available via the link below. The exact locations within each site should be communicated locally once finalized. [Self-Collection Locations](#) Remember that any unvaccinated employees who had not started their vaccine series as of 5 pm on August 4 must complete the COVID-19 vaccination education by August 31 as a condition of employment.

IMPORTANT: Indicating on your commitment or declination form that you received your COVID-19 vaccination outside of Employee Health does not automatically remove the education requirement. If you received your vaccination through an Aspirus clinic or outside provider and have not provided documentation to Employee Health, you need to do so and still need to complete the HealthStream vaccine education.

Aspirus Home Care & Hospice Epic Go-Live

On September 1, Aspirus Home Care & Hospice will go-live on Epic Dorothy for Home Care and Epic Comfort for Hospice. This integration will allow for more efficiencies throughout the entire patient care continuum, including streamlined communication with the patient's entire care team, thus improving patient outcomes and patient experience. It will also allow for better engagement between home offices and mobile work staff, expediting orders and changes to care plans and needs of the patients. [Please watch this video to hear from Cindy Rider, VP – Post Acute Care and to learn more about the importance of this Epic integration.](#)

Help is Available

Visit the [Transition Microsite](#) for user guides and resources. Job Aids are available and are searchable by name, application, or topic. **For IT support, continue to call the Ascension Help Desk: (877) 640-1416**