

BALLINGER MEMORIAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT
FALL 2020 HEALTH UPDATE
<https://www.ballingerhospital.org/public-notices>

Ballinger Memorial Hospital District (BMHD) provides the following updated information regarding healthcare services during COVID-19 as well as other healthcare news. All entities of BMHD including Ballinger Memorial Hospital, Ballinger EMS, Ballinger Hospital Clinic, and Keel Drug Store continue to operate fully with modifications in place to protect patients, visitors, staff, and the general public during COVID-19. With health and safety in mind, masks are required for all persons entering BMHD facilities. Patients who are minors as well as other patients requiring assistance are limited to one companion while inside BMHD facilities. All others accompanying a patient to a BMHD facility will be required to wait in their vehicles. We appreciate the understanding of our patients, their families and the public as we traverse through the ongoing pandemic.

Ballinger Memorial Hospital (BMH), 325-365-2531

PATIENTS WITH LIFE-THREATENING/EMERGENT NEEDS should call 911 for assistance. Ballinger Memorial Hospital (BMH) is pleased to continue offering 24/7/365 emergency room care as well as inpatient and swing bed services despite COVID-19. Additionally, outpatient services continue to be available at BMH with modifications in place to protect patients and staff. These include radiology and lab testing, physical therapy and mammography services in BMH's new 3D Mammography Suite. BMH has completed over 225 mammograms since the October 2019 inception of Mammography Services and has received extremely positive feedback from patients and physicians alike, not only on the incredible images provided by BMH's 3D Mammography Machine, but also on the comforting atmosphere of the Mammography Suite and the kind and caring certified technicians. BMH looks forward to continuing to provide local, high quality Mammography Services in the months and years ahead. If you or a loved one would like to utilize BMH's Mammography Services, please ask your ordering provider to fax an order to (325) 365-3953.

Ballinger Hospital Clinic (BHC), 325-365-5737

In addition to in-person appointments, Ballinger Hospital Clinic (BHC) continues to offer patient visits using Telehealth Services. Telehealth Services may be utilized by patients of all ages who would like to be seen by a provider without leaving their home, office, car, or other location. With Coronavirus concerns ongoing, we encourage those needing Clinic medical care to contact BHC and ask for an appointment utilizing Telehealth Services. This is especially true if the patient is experiencing illness including fever at or above 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit, cough, and/or shortness of breath. COVID-19 symptoms can also include fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea. Instructions regarding Telehealth Services are available at <https://www.ballingerhospital.org/public-notices>. BHC providers are pleased to provide this healthcare option and will gladly help patients through any questions. Well patients desiring in-person services at BHC should contact the Clinic at the above number to schedule an appointment.

Keel Drug, 325-365-3505

- Keel Drug lobby doors remain closed at this time pending installation of protective glass to guard customers and staff from the spread of germs. Keel Drug continues to remain open in full operation and follows its normal hours of business – Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. through 5:30 p.m. Prescriptions may be dropped off and picked up, as well as over the counter items purchased, **via the drive-thru window**.

- For new prescriptions or refill approvals, ask your provider to use E-Prescribe or call Keel Drug.

Local COVID-19 Testing and Processing Coming to Runnels County!!

In addition to the already available COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing, Ballinger Memorial Hospital District (BMHD) is ecstatic to announce that additional forms of COVID-19 testing will soon be available to be administered and fully processed at BMHD facilities. The additional testing capabilities will include Rapid Molecular/Rapid NAA, Rapid Antigen, as well as Antibody testing, all completed and processed locally. Stay tuned for more information about the availability, types, and how to go about receiving a locally administered and processed COVID-19 test!

BMHD, its Board of Directors, Administration, Providers and Staff appreciate your understanding and cooperation of the limitations and requirements still in place due to COVID-19. Please know our top priorities during this time are the health and well-being of our patients and staff as well as the public. With care regarding the safety and well-being of all, BMHD will continue striving to provide excellent healthcare services to the surrounding area!