

AMBULANCE SERVICE IN CABLE DURING CORONAVIRUS:

To ensure that EMTs and an ambulance are available when most needed, please follow these general guidelines:

1. If you have a fever of more than 100 degrees, a cough, and shortness of breath, Memorial Medical Center in Ashland would like you to start an E-visit on their website (www.essentiahealth.org/covid-19/covid-19-screening/) before coming to the hospital. E-visits allow a physician or advanced practitioner to evaluate your symptoms and provide care or self-quarantine instructions right away, without you having to leave your home. E-visits are free during this epidemic.
2. If you skip the E-visit and call an ambulance, but you do not have all of the symptoms, EMTs may call the ER from your house after doing an initial assessment, and the hospital staff may instruct us not to transport you. This is an important part of how we as health care providers are ensuring that the health care system is not overwhelmed.
3. If you are seriously ill, and we do take you to the hospital in an ambulance, please know that arriving at the hospital in an ambulance does not promise faster care. Hospital staff will continue to treat those with the most life-threatening issues first. Therefore, if you have done an E-visit and still need to see a doctor, but you are not experiencing severe respiratory distress, please ask a friend, family member, or even a neighbor to take you to the hospital. And when you go, protect those who are helping you out by wearing a mask or scarf (something to cover your nose and mouth) on your way to the hospital, so you don't infect them or anyone else.
4. We receive many calls to help people who have fallen and are unable to get up. We respond to these calls with the same urgency as we do for a person suffering a stroke or other serious health problem, but in this time of heightened risk, the ambulance service should not be your first choice for a lift assist if there is a family member, friend, or neighbor nearby who can help.