



New security procedure to begin immediately at Midlands Emergency Department entrances

With the increase in gun violence across the nation, there also has been an increase in possession of firearms and incidents inside hospitals. Many of the incidents across Prisma Health have been related to the Emergency Departments.

As an added security procedure, Security Services officers will begin immediately using portable metal detection, called wand, and inspecting bags at Emergency Department entrances for Baptist, Baptist Parkridge, Richland and Tuomey hospitals. The procedure will apply to everyone who enters the area without a Prisma Health ID badge.

Bernard Bourne, director of Security Services for Prisma Health-Midlands, said "The safety of our team members, patients and visitors is always a top priority. We are continuously looking at our processes to be sure we are doing everything we can to protect those who provide care and receive care at our facilities. We appreciate everyone's understanding of the need for these additional security measures. Every team member is supporting safety by letting us know if you see anything that needs our attention."

Team members should be aware:

- This procedure is not for team members. Please make sure your ID badge is displayed when entering one of these locations.
- Be mindful of this procedure when in the Emergency Department area.
- This is the same procedure that is being used in the community at sporting events and concerts.
- If you are asked about the procedure, inform the person that these security measures are for everyone's safety.
- Guns are not allowed in medical facilities unless carried by law enforcement personnel. Signs are posted on facility doors to alert those who have permits.
- If you encounter a gun in a hospital, contact Security Services for assistance.

Questions? Contact Security Services on your campus for assistance.