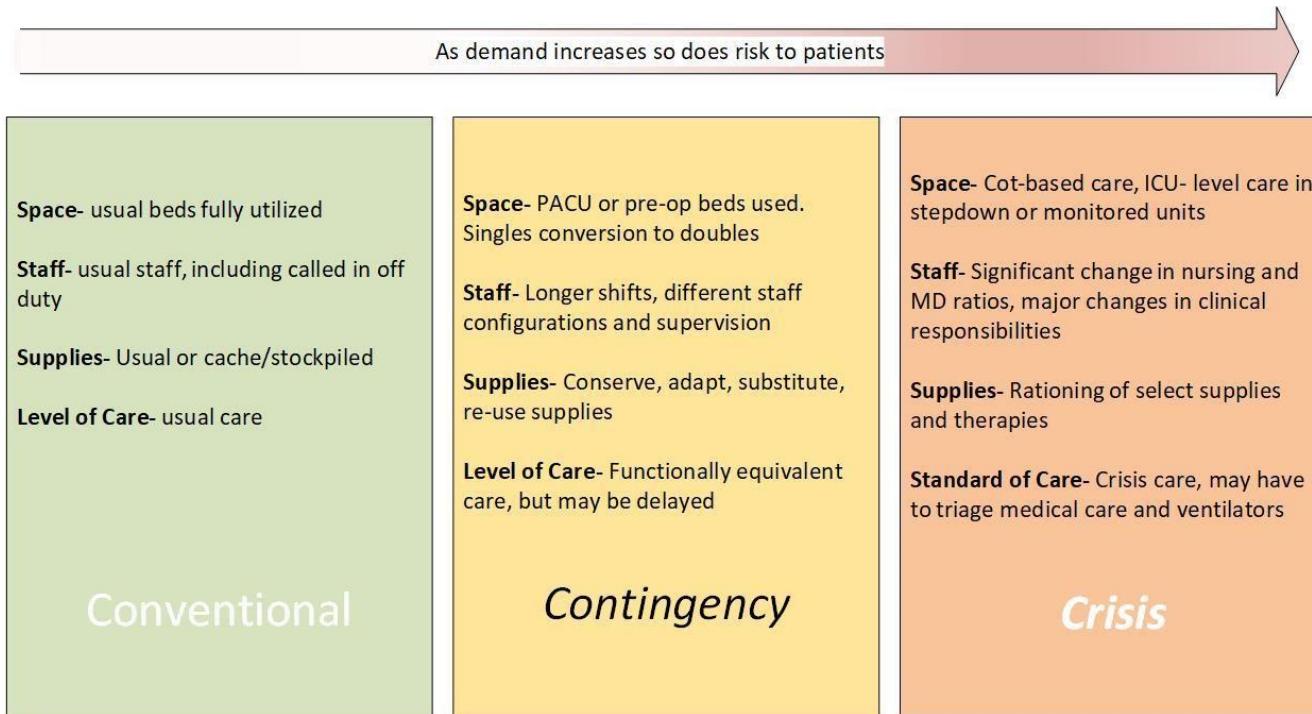


## **Crisis Care Guidelines Provide Framework for Clinicians to Provide Care with Insufficient Resources during COVID-19 Pandemic**

1. The latest COVID-19 surge has resurfaced the potential need to draw upon the [California SARS-CoV-2 Pandemic Crisis Care Guidelines](#), a document released by the California Department of Public Health in June that no one whose daily work involves saving lives would prefer to ever need to use.
  - This unprecedented crisis has resulted in a new, harsh reality – the possibility of health care professionals having to manage scarcity.
  - The numbers and projections, as we approach 2 million cases in California, suggest health care workers may not have enough of what's needed — staff, personal protective equipment, testing capabilities, ventilators and other life-saving machines — to provide maximum care to each and every patient.
  - This is a grim prospect, and one whose gravity is deeply felt by health care leaders and clinicians.
2. The Crisis Care Guidelines – a framework for health care professionals to plan for a surge of unimaginable proportions – were developed by the state based on best practices throughout the country and guided by ethical principles.
  - The framework aims to ensure that if there is a shortfall of what's needed, health care systems respond in a coordinated, thoughtful manner to make decisions that protect the health of all Californians as best we can with the resources available.
  - Every hospital in California has access to these guidelines, and will operationalize them, if needed, in a way that will meet the needs of their patients to the best of their ability.
  - **Central Valley Specialty Hospital (CVSH)** has implemented a Contingency Crisis Care Continuum Guideline to meet the needs and processes, while following ethical principles, health equity goals, and civil rights laws. Central Valley Specialty Hospital is utilizing the Crisis Care Guidelines Pre-Implementation Checklist (pdf) to ensure our facility has gone through all possible contingency planning before enacting crisis care guidelines. Central Valley Specialty Hospital has implemented the necessary essentials based on the expectations of our facility to maintain conventional standards of patient care however, at this time we are implementing some elements at the contingency level. CVSH is accessing the specified resources while we remain in contingent care until we can return to conventional care. CVSH is utilizing the checklist provided to ensure all resources are being utilized to best care for our patient population.
    - Level of Care: Operating at equivalent care, possible delay in timeliness of care, delay/missing elements in charting
    - Staff Members/Operations: Utilizing agencies including direct placement, temporary and travel nursing, staffing waivers, team nursing, hiring events, bonus', extended shifts
    - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Supplies, and Equipment: Routine requests from MHOAC, re-use and extended use in place, contracts, daily ventilator and airway reports, conservation of supplies where applicable

- Space (Internal and External): Surge space is being utilized, CVSH is utilizing surge space to decompress larger facilities

**As the pandemic continues, CVSH will use a coordinated and thoughtful approach with decision making that will best protect the health of all patients. With this in mind, CVSH is constantly re-evaluating patient needs as we move from contingency to crisis stage and back from crisis to contingency stage.**



**CVSH is continually re-evaluating the needs in the community and internally evaluating the demand and impact on patients. Our goal is to provide the best care for the individual patient considering that resources are scarce and the focus is now to be shifted to delivering the best care for the patient population.**

**3. Crisis care happens only when all other avenues are exhausted. Right now, there is still time to help reduce the need for these measures – by avoiding all unnecessary outings/travel and gatherings for the next several weeks.**

- Many regions in the state are near, at, or exceeding the current hospital ICU capacity, and models suggest more patients will be flooding hospitals in the coming weeks.
- This could be exacerbated by non-essential travel and gatherings over the Christmas and New Year holidays.
- AAA projects as many as 84.5 million Americans will journey 50 miles or more from Dec. 23 to Jan. 3, 2021; that's a 30% drop compared to last year, but it's not enough. Hospitals ask all Californians to do their part to alleviate the strain on critical resources so we can do our part to care for those in need and save lives including those of our friends and families.

