

UnityPoint Health – Des Moines

Plain Language Code Conversion

(all messages repeated x 3) – highlights indicate those that should be considered for elimination after further review

Emergency	Current Code	Plain Language	Example
Fire	Red	Fire Alarm + Location + Action Required	Attention... fire alarm on Powell 4. Hospital staff activate fire response procedures.
Medical Emergency	Blue	“Adult/Pediatric Medical Emergency – Code blue” + Location Pediatric Medical Emergency + Location	Attention... adult medical emergency on (unit, room #.) Attention... pediatric medical emergency on (unit, room #.)
Aggressive Behavior	Green	Safety Assistance Requested + Location + Action Required	Attention... Safety Assistance requested on (unit, room #.)
Pediatric Abduction	Purple	Missing Person + Descriptor + Action Required	Attention... missing <i>infant/child</i> (choose one), (provide description – age, gender, ethnicity, any other pertinent information) last seen on _____. If seen, contact 241-7777 immediately.
Eloped/Missing Adult	Silver	Missing Person + Descriptor + Action Required	Attention... missing adult, last seen on _____. (provide description – age, gender, ethnicity, any other pertinent information.) If seen, dial 241-7777 immediately. Hospital staff immediately survey your work areas.
Hostile Threat	Yellow	Code Yellow + Location + Description of Threat + Action Required	ATTENTION-ATTENTION... “Hostile Threat”; <i>campus</i> ; there is (describe what is known including location “Active Shooter, Cafeteria”). Avoid this area. Hospital staff activate Hostile Threat Procedures. (Repeat every 3 minutes or when there is new information.)
Neonatal Emergency	Pink	“Neonatal Medical Emergency – Code Pink” + Location	Attention... neonatal medical emergency in (unit, room#.)
Nuc/Bio/Chem Threat	White	Decontamination Team Needed + Location	Attention... decontamination team needed in the Emergency Department.
Bomb Threat	Black	Note: Remain Coded Code Black + Campus + Action Required	Attention... Code Black, <i>campus</i> . Hospital staff please implement Code Black procedures immediately.
Utility Outage	Brown	Utility Outage (Electrical, Water, Medical Air, Sewer, etc.) + Location + Action Required	Attention... (<i>electrical, water, medical air, sewer, etc.</i>) outage. Please implement the utility outage procedure for your department. <i>If estimated duration is known, provide this information. Add any additional instructions pertinent to the event as instructed.</i>
Tornado/High Wind	Tornado/High Wind	Tornado Watch/Warning + Action Required	Watch: Attention... Activate tornado and high wind watch procedures. Warning: Attention... activate tornado and high wind warning procedures. Immediately take cover in an interior area of the building.