

Kirkland, Washington was the first U.S. city with reports of a large-scale COVID-19 outbreak. In this special edition of ERcast, Dr. Patrick Reinfried, an emergency physician practicing at Kirkland's Evergreen Hospital, gives a first hand account of what happened in his community, how his hospital has responded, and lessons learned. In this episode: difficult decisions that might not have been made before the outbreak, testing, what factors go into deciding admission vs. discharge, how to limit exposure to COVID patients and save PPE, re-ordering the emergency department with an area dedicated to fever and respiratory illness, patient flow, utility of BiPAP vs intubation, lab ordering, X-rays, and psychological impact.