

April 21, 2020

To our patients and community:

Protecting the health of our community is our first priority. During these uncertain times we have taken significant measures to ensure that our patients and community stay safe. Early on, we implemented visitor restrictions and escalated them in stepwise fashion to our current “no visitor” policy; including screening and taking the temperature of every patient or visitor entering the facility. We cancelled non-essential surgeries and we ensured that CDC guidelines were followed regarding Personal Protective Equipment for our staff. These were all efforts in our commitment to you.

Other changes that have been made since then include:

- Expanded *SRHC vCare* (telemedicine) initiatives to keep physicians and their patients connected.
- Segregated care for patients with respiratory illness and developed a dedicated COVID-19 testing location.
- Increased number of negative air pressure rooms to enable us to accommodate more suspected and known COVID-19 patients while protecting our staff.
- Obtained supplies for the protection of our staff and patients in a market that has experienced severe shortages.
- Implemented workforce plans that help to ensure Salina Regional Health Center staff remain employed.
- Planned ways to shift staff responsibilities to different roles where patients need them most.
- Transitioned all large group meetings from in-person to virtual (zoom) meetings.
- Implemented screening of employees for symptoms prior to reporting to work.
- Implemented social distancing and added Purell hand sanitizing stations throughout all SRHC facilities for patients and staff.
- Increased disinfection and cleaning of work spaces and hospital environment.

We encourage you to check our Facebook page and our website regularly for updates.

We would also like to thank our community for the outpouring of support we have received. From sewing masks to donating supplies and snacks to providing words of encouragement, your generosity is so appreciated by all our staff.

It takes all of us doing our part to help slow the spread of COVID-19. Remember to stay at home and only go out for essential tasks, wash your hands and don't touch your face. Together we will get through this.