

## Sarah D. Culbertson Memorial Hospital News Release

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## UPDATED OPERATIONAL CHANGES DUE TO COVID-19

Sarah D. Culbertson Memorial Hospital and our Clinics have continued to work diligently to prepare for and respond to the potential of a COVID-19 outbreak in our communities. At this time, we will be making several operational changes with the safety of our patient's, providers and staff in mind.

### Restricted Entry into the Hospital

These restrictions will remain in effect until the transmission of COVID-19 and influenza are no longer a threat. These changes will be in effect for all people, including patients, visitors, family or friends who enter Sarah D. Culbertson Memorial Hospital.

Beginning on March 18<sup>th</sup> at 9 p.m. the Main Entrance of the Hospital will be the only entrance into the hospital. Upon entry, patients and visitors will be screened for COVID-19 following the current Illinois Department of Public Health Guidelines:

- Have you travelled outside of the country to an affected area in the past 14 days? (China, Italy, Japan, Iran, South Korea, the European Union). Have you traveled to an area in the US with a large outbreak, such as the San Francisco bay region in the past 14 days?
- Have you had close contact with anyone diagnosed with known coronavirus (COVID-19) infection or who is under evaluation for possible exposure? (Close contact means having been within 6 feet of that person for an extended time or being exposed to their cough or sneeze.)
- Do you have any of the following symptoms: fever, a cough (cold or flu-like symptoms), difficulty breathing or shortness of breath?

If the answer is yes to any of the above questions, and are not seeking **EMERGENCY MEDICAL ATTENTION FOR ANOTHER ISSUE** you will be advised to return home and contact your Primary Care Provider for further instructions.

The **Main Entrance** is located at the front of the hospital and will be open 24 hours a day.

### Visitation Policy Changes Effective March 18<sup>th</sup> at 9pm

- Only individuals here to visit a patient or accompany a patient will be allowed.
- Only **ONE** person will be allowed to visit or accompany a patient at a time (Ages 18 and older).
- Visitors with acute respiratory symptoms will not be allowed to visit.
- Visitation hours of 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. will be strictly enforced.
- Visitors will be required to sign in and sign out at patient access and will be required to wear a visitor badge.

For end-of-life situations or other extreme circumstances, visitors with acute respiratory symptoms will be required to wear a mask while inside the hospital.

## Suspended Services

**March 17<sup>th</sup>** - Cafeteria

**March 18<sup>th</sup>** - Senior Life Solutions

**March 19<sup>th</sup>** - Cardio-Pulmonary Rehabilitation

**March 23<sup>rd</sup>** - All elective Surgical Procedures from March 23<sup>rd</sup> until April 3<sup>rd</sup> will be rescheduled.

**March 23<sup>rd</sup>** - All Outpatient Specialty Clinics will be closed with the exceptions of the following clinics that will remain open to ensure un-interrupted patient care:

- Wound Clinic has temporarily been moved to Rushville Family Practice.
- Oncology Services (doctor's visits, treatments and lab services) will be moved to the Outpatient Specialty Clinic in the West Wing of the Hospital. The north entrance to West Wing will be only open during Oncology Clinic and patients should use this entrance only.

## Outpatient Services

At this time, all outpatient services (Imaging, Laboratory, Therapy and Outpatient Treatments) will remain open. All patients will be screened prior to treatments or testing.

## Culbertson Clinics

All of our Providers will continue to see their patients. Prior to your appointment, a member of our team will reach out to screen you prior to your appointment. Please be patient with us and understand this process may be repeated when you come in for your appointment.

We are encouraging our clinic patient's without acute needs to reschedule their routine follow up visits to reduce their chance of exposure in the clinics. Patients are welcome to keep their existing appointments should they still wish to be seen. Patients are encouraged to call the office to schedule an appointment for their acute medical needs instead of walking in to be seen.

"While we understand that some of these actions make seem drastic, please know these decisions were made with the best interest of our patients and staff in mind and to help protect against the spread of the Coronavirus also known as COVID-19 in our communities," said John Kessler, Sarah D. Culbertson Memorial Hospital CEO. "As confirmed cases seem to double by the day, and recommendations from the CDC continue to change, we felt it was important to take the necessary steps to ensure a safe and healthy environment. I will caution that due to the fluid nature of this pandemic, we may have to take additional steps to ensure a safe and healthy environment for our patient and staff. Rest assured that I am very confident in our staff's ability to continue meeting your healthcare needs."