

March 18, 2020

Dear LRH Community,

As you are aware, the COVID-19 outbreak has caused our entire country to work on efforts to limit this escalating public health emergency. Here in New Hampshire, in the last few days, we have seen recommendations for social distancing, closing of schools and restaurants, and cancellation of events in an effort to protect public health and slow the spread of the virus to avoid over burdening the healthcare system.

Here, at LRH we are making every effort to protect our community and our workforce in preparation for the impact of this public health emergency. In recent days, we altered our visitation policies and began screening everyone upon entry to our buildings in an effort to limit exposure to this virus.

We are reviewing utilization of medical services at the hospital and our off site clinics to:

- Direct the most valuable and limited resource -- our workforce -- to the patients who need help the most
- Conserve protective equipment vital to providing care in a way that safeguards our caregivers as well as the community
- Keep beds available in the event of a surge in demand
- Reduce community spread of the virus by supporting social distancing efforts to keep our community and workforce safe

Supporting public health efforts and aligning with hospital efforts across the state is one of the many approaches we are taking to protect our patients, our workforce and the community at large. ***We are working with our physicians and providers to identify which tests, procedures and surgeries will continue as scheduled. Any procedures and surgeries that can be delayed without negative medical impact to the patient will be postponed.*** We will notify patients affected by these decisions promptly.

We recognize that for you, our patients, these steps are much more than an inconvenience. Our decisions are not made lightly or without an awareness of the impact they may have on you. We offer our sincere appreciation for your understanding and are grateful for your support as we confront the COVID-19 outbreak together. We will be sure to keep you informed as this situation evolves. Please check our website for up to date information at <http://littletonhospital.org>.

Sincerely,



Robert F. Nutter
President and Chief Executive Officer



Edward L. Duffy, MD, MBA, FACEP
Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer