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For Immediate Release

## **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update for KershawHealth**

**CAMDEN, SC (March 9, 2020)**- KershawHealth is committed to providing the highest quality care and ensuring the safety of our patients, employees, providers, volunteers and visitors. We are continuing to work closely with South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) and following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as it relates to the evolving coronavirus situation in our community.

As of the morning of March 9, KershawHealth has confirmed two patients who tested presumptive positive for novel coronavirus (COVID-19), one of whom was transferred to another facility and one of whom is in isolation at KershawHealth. Additional information about these and other presumptive positive cases in our community is available through SCDHEC.

Our hospital is prepared with the appropriate plans to detect, protect and respond, in line with guidance from the CDC. We have been preparing for the potential of COVID-19 in our community for several weeks, building upon the robust emergency operations plan we have in place year-round. Specifically, we have taken the following steps to prepare and respond:

- Patients in the Emergency Department, inpatient units, and outpatient clinics are being screened based CDC guidelines.
- Hand hygiene products are easily accessible throughout the facility.
- Upon the identification of any potential COVID-19 case, we follow all CDC guidelines for placing the individual in isolation.
- Staff treating a potential COVID-19 case are provided with all appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) to help prevent exposure.
- Staff members who come in contact with a presumptive positive COVID-19 case are identified and managed following CDC guidance.
- Limited visitation guidelines have been implemented for visitors to our hospital:
  - Each patient may have only one WELL visitor. Any visitor experiencing any respiratory symptoms, or a fever, is not permitted to visit a patient—even with a mask.
  - Additional WELL friends and family (beyond the one designated visitor) have been asked to remain at home rather than in hospital waiting rooms.
  - Masks and gowns are being distributed by hospital staff according to infection prevention guidelines.

We are very proud of the incredible team at KershawHealth for responding and executing on the preparedness plans we have practiced. Their commitment to our patients and community is inspiring.

Once again, we want to assure our community that it is safe to come to KershawHealth should you need care. For more information, visit <https://www.kershawhealth.org/>.

**About KershawHealth:** Founded in 1913 as Camden Hospital, KershawHealth is a full-service healthcare system proudly serving its community members in Kershaw county and the surrounding areas. A part of LifePoint Health, KershawHealth consist of facilities in Camden, Elgin, Lugoff, Bethune and Kershaw, including the 119-bed Medical Center and the 20-bed Geriatric Psychiatric Unit in Camden, Outpatient Center and Urgent Care in Elgin, Sleep Diagnostics Center, and Physical Therapy. KershawHealth employs more than 800 dedicated staff. For more information, visit [www.KershawHealth.org](http://www.KershawHealth.org).

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