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Positive COVID-19 Patient at Stormont Vail Health

(Topeka, Kan., March 24, 2020) — Today, a patient in our Topeka hospital tested positive for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The patient was referred to Stormont Vail from a facility outside of Shawnee County. The test result was received within a 48-hour window.

The team at Stormont Vail followed all safety precautions and guidelines set forth by the Centers Disease Control and Prevention as well as local and state health departments. These include placing the patient in a negative airflow isolation room as well as requiring all members of the care team to wear personal protective equipment such as the Powered Air Purifying Respirator (PAPR), gloves and gowns.

With precautions in place, the hospital will remain open to patients and visitors.

“Our health system has worked tirelessly to prepare for COVID-19 at Stormont Vail Health,” said Robert Kenagy, M.D., president and CEO, Stormont Vail Health. “Our focus remains on providing care to all of our patients and communities.”

Dr. Robert Kenagy will join local leaders at 5 p.m. at the Shawnee County Health Department to brief the media.

The privacy of our patients are utmost importance, we are asking that the media contact Matt Lara, public relations specialist, for any requests prior to coming to our campus.

Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever and cough or shortness of breath. Concerned individuals should seek medical help right away, calling ahead to their primary care providers or before going to an emergency room. Patients presenting to Stormont Vail or a Cotton O-Neil Clinic should call (785) 354-6000 before arriving. If this is a medical emergency, call 911.

About Stormont Vail Health: Stormont Vail Health is a nonprofit integrated health system that has been serving the health care needs of Kansas for more than 130 years. Stormont Vail has been recognized as a Magnet® organization since

2009 by the American Nurses Credentialing Center. It is composed of Stormont Vail Hospital, a 586-bed acute care hospital, and Cotton O'Neil Clinic, a multi-specialty physician group with more than 500 providers, which includes more than 250 physicians. Nearly 5,300 employees provide care and support services for patients in the hospital and 35 other locations, including the Cotton O'Neil Heart Center, Cancer Center, Diabetes & Endocrinology Center, Digestive Health Center, Pediatrics clinics and 10 regional primary care clinics. Stormont Vail Health is committed to its mission of improving the health of the community by being a national leader in providing compassionate, high quality and efficient integrated care through collaboration that results in a healthier community. For more information about Stormont Vail and Cotton O'Neil, visit stormontvail.org. For breaking news and videos, follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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