

Media Advisory

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BJC HealthCare implements a temporary limited visitor policy

(ST. LOUIS – March 17, 2020) – BJC HealthCare and Boone Hospital Center are putting special restrictions in place for visitors at all locations at this time to help protect patients and staff during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak. This is a measure being taken by many health systems and hospitals throughout the region.

“The health and safety of our patients, visitors, staff and community is our highest priority, at BJC and throughout our region,” said Clay Dunagan, MD, BJC senior vice president and chief clinical officer. “We appreciate the understanding and support of hospital visitors during these extraordinary times, as we make every effort to protect the health and safety of our patients, team members and visitors.”

Key changes regarding the special visiting policy include the following:

- Visitors who are experiencing signs of illness cannot visit until they return to health

One visitor at a time for each patient including:

- Inpatient care units
 - Emergency departments
 - Intensive care units
 - Outpatient surgery and procedure areas
 - Medical offices and clinics
- Two visitors at a time are permitted in obstetrics and pediatrics
 - Visitors under the age of 16 are not permitted, including siblings
 - All visitors will be asked screening questions
 - Visitors are urged to follow hand hygiene and any other protection that is needed for the patient
 - Keep in mind that additional restrictions may apply in certain high-risk areas such as cancer, transplant and where patients have compromised immune systems

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About Boone Hospital Center

Boone Hospital Center is a 392-bed full service hospital located in Columbia, Mo. It is a regional referral center located in the center of the state. The hospital provides progressive health care programs, services and technology to residents in 25 mid-Missouri counties. Boone Hospital Center was named the top hospital in mid-Missouri by U.S. News & World Report for 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 and is designated as a Magnet® Hospital for Nursing Excellence by the

American Nurses Credentialing Center.

BJC HealthCare

BJC HealthCare is one of the largest nonprofit health care organizations in the United States, delivering services to residents primarily in the greater St. Louis, southern Illinois and mid-Missouri regions. Serving the health care needs of urban, suburban and rural communities, BJC includes 15 hospitals and multiple health service organizations. Services include inpatient and outpatient care, primary care, community health and wellness, workplace health, home health, community mental health, rehabilitation, long-term care and hospice. BJC's nationally recognized academic hospitals, Barnes-Jewish and St. Louis Children's hospitals, are affiliated with Washington University School of Medicine.