
From: Office of the Provost (HSC)
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2020
Subject: COVID-19: We are in this together

Dear OU Health Sciences Center and OU Medicine Community:

As more COVID-19 cases are confirmed in Oklahoma, we want to keep you updated on the responsiveness and preparedness plans happening across our health care enterprise. As we focus on eliminating the spread of COVID-19, it has been inspiring to witness our entire combined team rally with ideas and actions. No organization in the state of Oklahoma is more equipped to fight this virus than the combined effort of the OU Health Sciences Center and OU Medicine, Inc. Our health care and academic leadership is made up of the most talented and skilled professionals-- including researchers, infectious diseases specialists, epidemiologists, public health officials, and medical providers in nearly every specialty. We are truly humbled by the courage and can-do attitude we see from our team working the front lines in the hospitals and clinics.

Our most important responsibility is to protect the health and safety of our staff, faculty, patients, students, trainees, and visitors. New precautions and protocols across our healthcare system have been established to help achieve increased protections, and University and hospital readiness teams made up of our physicians, public health experts and leaders have been meeting regularly to adapt and execute our response to COVID-19. We are also working very closely with the Oklahoma State Department of Health and other health systems in Oklahoma.

Some of the steps we have taken to date include:

- Developing and disseminating care practices for COVID-19 across all clinics and hospitals
- Restricting visitor access
- Restricting vendor access
- Adopting and expanding strict travel guidelines
- Adopting conservation systems for medical supplies and equipment needed to care for our patients and protect our providers.

Additionally, a variety of tools has been created to provide direction and assistance to our teams in handling COVID-19. Because this information is evolving, these documents are being updated on a daily basis. We believe it is our responsibility to help reduce the spread of this virus and realize it affects all of our homes and communities. We are

offering these materials and information to any health care organization that can use them and are making the tools available to our employees to help protect you and your family from COVID-19. To access these tools, [please click here](#).

Oklahoma is looking to us to lead the state in efforts to mitigate and end this pandemic. Each of us has a responsibility to protect ourselves, our colleagues and our patients. Together, we are a combined force, working in one direction.

Thank you for all that you do. It is humbling to be a part of our team's work to address this public health crisis. We are in this together.

Sincerely,

Jason Sanders, MD, MBA

OU Health Sciences Center Senior Vice President and Provost

Chuck Spicer, FACHE

OU Medicine, Inc. President and CEO

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