



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE March 23, 2020 4:30 pm

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March 23, 2020, Gallup, NM—Rehoboth McKinley Christian Health Care Services (RMCHCS) has confirmed the first case of coronavirus (COVID-19). The patient is a female in her 50s. “Our providers and staff are prepared to meet the challenges of the coronavirus. We continue to work hard to protect our patients, staff and providers with the highest level of care, and serve our community during this challenging time,” stated Dr. Valory Wangler, Chief Medical Officer. “We strongly encourage everyone to follow CDC guidelines on the coronavirus to help limit the spread of the virus. Please stay at home and only go out when absolutely necessary.”

As of Saturday, March 21, RMCHCS heightened its visitor policy to a **No Visitation Policy** due to regional coronavirus spread. However, one support person is allowed into the Women’s Health and Birthing and may remain with the patient during labor, delivery and postpartum stay. One support person may accompany a patient at admissions, but once the person leaves, no visitors will be allowed into the facility to visit the patient. Terminally ill patients may have one visitor at a time, but this will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

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If you have had a fever in the past 14 days or have a cough and difficulty breathing, call RMCHCS COVID-19 Hotline at **505-236-1074** before coming to the hospital. Drive-up coronavirus testing is available at the main entrance of Rehoboth Christian Hospital for those who qualify.

CDC guidelines: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/perpare/prevention.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/perpare/prevention.html)