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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FERRELL HOSPITAL, CLINICS TO RESTRICT VISITORS AND SCREEN PATIENTS SEEKING CARE

ELDORADO, CARMi & MCLEANSBORO, IL – Effective immediately, no visitors will be allowed in Ferrell Hospital. Exceptions will be made for one adult accompanying a pediatric patient and end-of-life situations.

Ferrell Hospital and Affiliated Clinics - Screening Process

Ferrell Hospital and affiliated clinics have implemented patient screening protocols prior to entering the facility and/or clinics. At Ferrell Hospital and Ferrell Hospital Family Practice, patients should go to the main entrance located on Benton Street if arriving between the hours of 7 AM to 7 PM, Monday-Friday, otherwise go to the Emergency entrance.

Patients with a medical emergency will present to the Emergency Department entrance.

Patients will be screened for fever greater than 100.4 F, symptoms of cough or shortness of breath, recent areas of travel, and if they have been exposed to someone diagnosed with COVID-19. Once cleared, patients may enter the facility. If patients exhibit symptoms, have a fever, or meet travel criteria, they will be moved to a treatment tent located outside of the Emergency Department. Patients will then be examined by a provider and tested for flu, strep throat, or RSV as appropriate. **Per Illinois Department of Public Health Guidelines, patients will only be tested for COVID-19 if they are in respiratory distress and meet hospitalization criteria.**

Carmi Family Medicine and McLeansboro Family Medicine

During regular clinic hours, patients will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms in the tent set up in front of the clinic. Once cleared, patients may enter the facility. If patients exhibit symptoms or meet travel criteria, they will be sent to Ferrell Hospital to a treatment tent located outside of the Emergency Department.

For more information about COVID-19, please visit our website at www.ferrellhospital.org, and click the blue bar at the top to visit the Illinois Department of Public Health site.

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