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**URGENT MEDIA ALERT:**

**RMC Health System and Stringfellow Hospitals Implement Strict  
NO Visitation Policy Effective Immediately**

*All Elective Medical and Dental Surgeries to be Postponed Until April 5, 2020*

**(Anniston, AL) – March 19, 2020** – Effective immediately, officials at RMC and Stringfellow Hospitals must comply with a statewide Public Health Order that prohibits ALL hospital visitation by family members, visitors and non-essential health care personnel at RMC and Stringfellow Hospitals. The only **exceptions** to this public health order are compassionate care situations, such as maternity or end of life.

The statewide Public Health Order was issued today by Alabama Governor Kay Ivey and the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) in an effort to contain further spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Further, the statewide public health order states that all elective medical and dental surgeries must be postponed until after April 5, 2020 unless they are deemed to be 1. life threatening, 2. a threat of deformity or dysfunction of an organ or extremity or 3. considered to be medically urgent.

“As a health system, our top priority has been and will continue to be the health and safety of our patients and protecting the dedicated clinical teams who are on the front lines providing care,” said Louis Bass, CEO of RMC. “We understand the hardship this will place on our community, patients and their families. However, RMC must adhere to this state mandated public health order to do our part in stemming the further spread of COVID-19.”

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**Official Resources:**

<http://www.calhounema.org/post/order-of-alabama-state-health-officer-suspending-certain-public-gatherings>

CDC recommendations for Workplace and Commercial establishments best practices: <https://www.cdc.gov/.../workplace-school-and-home-guidance.pdf>

CDC COVID-19 Information <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/index.html>

<http://alabamapublichealth.gov/infectiousdiseases/2019-coronavirus.html>

For more information, visit [www.RMCcares.org](http://www.RMCcares.org).