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MEDIA ALERT:

**RMC Health System Reinstates Strict NO VISITORS Policy at Hospital
Effective Thursday, July 16, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.**

(Anniston, AL) – July 15, 2020 – Due to an increased number of COVID-19 cases in the Calhoun County area, officials at RMC and Stringfellow Hospitals announced today they are reinstating the earlier restrictions restricting hospital visitors. Effective **Thursday, July 16, 2020 at 5:00p.m.**, the reinstated policy calls for Anniston-based hospitals to restrict all hospital visitation by family members, visitors and non-essential health care personnel at RMC and Stringfellow Hospitals. Visitors will only be allowed for compassionate care for end-of-life patient cases, support persons with disabilities and one support person allowed for maternity cases.

According to Louis Bass, CEO of RMC Health System, the decision to reinstate the strict limitations to the hospital visitation policy is being done as a means to protect patients, staff and physicians against the further spread of COVID-19.

“We have seen a significant spread of the coronavirus over the past 14 days in our immediate service area,” Bass explained. “As we work to care for and treat our patients who need medical attention, it is critical that we reinstate our earlier visitor restrictions. The situation will continue to be evaluated daily and adjustments will be made as the situation dictates.”

The original Public Health Order to restrict hospital visitors was issued in early March at the beginning of this global pandemic 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).

“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. “While we prefer to begin returning our facilities to normal operating policies, we must stem further spread among our patients, vital medical teams and community. We appreciate everyone’s cooperation in this matter.”

For more information, visit www.RMCcares.org.

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