



NEWS RELEASE

March 13, 2020
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HATTIESBURG CLINIC RESPONDS TO RECENT CORONAVIRUS ANNOUNCEMENT

The Mississippi State Department of Health has confirmed a presumptive case of COVID-19, also known as Coronavirus, on Wednesday, March 11, 2020. The patient was identified as a Forrest County male.

“The health and safety of our patients, employees and community is our number one priority,” said Tommy Thornton, FACMPE, Hattiesburg Clinic Executive Director. “Since confirmation of the disease in the US was declared, our medical and administrative leadership has been closely following the guidelines of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the Mississippi State Department of Health regarding both preventative measures and post diagnoses protocols should we be affected.” All patients who have an appointment or make an appointment will go through screening measures.

Latest reports from the Centers for Disease Control indicate that cases in the United States continue to grow well over 1,000. “We are obviously concerned that this virus has now spread to our community,” said Thornton. “While it is prudent that our employees and community take seriously the precautions that the CDC and so many others have issued, it is equally important that we remain reasonable how we respond to this new information.” The CDC offers the following recommendations:

- Clean your hands often
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- If you are sick, stay home
- Cover your mouth from coughing and sneezing
- Clean and disinfect

We obviously want patients to feel safe coming into their medical appointments, and while this is a rapidly evolving situation, patients should be confident that we are taking the appropriate measures to ensure a healthy medical environment.” Thornton encourages patients to make reasonable decisions regarding their upcoming appointment, and should call their doctor’s office if they have questions.

Hattiesburg Clinic recently launched telemedicine visits through Immediate Care for established Hattiesburg Clinic patients who have an Iris account. For more information about telehealth, please visit www.hattiesburgclinic.com/iris.

Hattiesburg Clinic is working in conjunction with other local, state and national leaders to be informed and proactive about the situation so we are able to provide safe guidance to everyone in our community. Additionally, updates can be obtained by visiting www.hattiesburgclinic.com/coronavirus.

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