

**DCH Community Clergy Visitation Update
COVID-19
March 18, 2020**

TO: Community Clergy & Lay Persons
FROM: Ron Howard, Director of Pastoral Care
SCOPE: DCH Regional Medical Center, Northport Medical Center and Fayette Medical Center
EFFECTIVE: Immediately

The DCH Health System has always valued the spiritual care provided by our patient's own faith community. We see Spiritual and Emotional well-being as very important parts of healthcare. However, during this Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, we find it necessary to restrict hospital visitation for the purpose of protecting both our vulnerable patients as well as our community.

As we work to control the spread of the Covid-19 virus:

- We are asking clergy and lay persons not to visit patients at DCH Regional Medical Center, Northport Medical Center or Fayette County Medical Center.
- We recommend providing support by telephone, text, video call or other electronic means so that patients are reminded that they are cared for and that their faith community is praying for them.
- **When families request their local Faith Leader for End of Life Ministry, our Chaplains will arrange access for the Faith Leader.**
- We suggest that you review the Guidance for Faith Based Organizations from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/index.html>

If you have questions, you may email our Chaplains at Pastoral.Care@dchsystem.com