



**-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-**

## **SRMC Plans Phased Reopening of Services**

(SALEM, OHIO) – May 1, 2020 - Beginning Friday, May 1, Salem Regional Medical Center (SRMC) will gradually reopen some of its services in accordance with Governor DeWine's recent plan for reopening Ohio's economy. Specifically, SRMC will focus on the phased reopening of medically necessary elective surgeries and other needed procedures. SRMC's plan is to gradually reopen these services with an enhanced focus on the health and safety of its patients, staff and physicians as a top priority.

SRMC is starting to reschedule patients for surgeries, testing and other medical procedures that are not related to COVID-19.

"SRMC had postponed scheduling non-critical surgeries and procedures in accordance with Ohio's state-wide orders issued on March 17. However, the number of people requiring medical care for debilitating, chronic conditions or those facing quality of life issues has not gone away because of the virus," said Anita Hackstedde, M.D., SRMC President/CEO.

"As a hospital, we take care of people who have ongoing, chronic disease and those with a worsening of their condition—it's what we do. We are looking forward to providing exceptional services to these patients once again so they can receive the care they need. We are ready to safely provide surgeries, procedures, testing and treatment."

SRMC's medical staff physicians will discuss with their patients the risk of performing the surgery or procedure, along with the risk of postponing it. Together, physicians will use shared decision-making with their patients to determine whether or not the surgery or procedure should be performed.

### **Enhanced Safety Precautions**

"SRMC is taking enhanced safety precautions to continue to ensure that all areas of our facility are thoroughly disinfected and sanitized," Dr. Hackstedde added. "In addition, patients requiring a hospital stay can be reassured that our private patient rooms reduce the risk of spreading the infection and we are separating these patients in dedicated areas away from potential/known COVID-19 patients."

"We continue to restrict visitation except for individuals with extenuating circumstances and are screening all individuals for infection upon arrival. A mask is then provided to each person to help maintain the health and safety of our patients and caregivers. In addition, our physicians and staff are well-trained in infection control processes and protocols; and we have reconfigured our waiting area and scheduling process to promote social distancing."

SRMC is also carefully monitoring its supply of personal protective equipment (PPE), such as gowns, masks and gloves; in order to prepare for a future outbreak of COVID-19 or global shortages.

“We are committed to doing our very best to keep every patient and every caregiver safe,” Dr. Hackstedde said.

For more information about SRMC’s phased reopening of services, please contact the Marketing/Public Relations department at 330-332-7439.