

GREAT PLAINS REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Beckham County Health Department Confirms First Case of COVID-19 *First COVID-19 Case in Beckham County*

Elk City, OK (March 30, 2020): The Oklahoma State Health Department notified Great Plains Regional Medical Center of a confirmed case of coronavirus (COVID-19) in Beckham County. The individual resides in Beckham County, but was not tested or treated by Great Plains Regional Medical Center.

Under the direction of The Oklahoma State Department of Health this individual was immediately placed in self-isolation and appropriate protocols have been implemented in accordance with the OSDH and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Lastly, the OSDH is coordinating all aspects of care for this particular individual.

It is important for our community to remember that this case was not unexpected.

Great Plains Regional Medical Center staff members are well prepared for this situation and continue to operate under rigorous infection control procedures. The Infection control team at GPRMC is using a combination of best practices to help ensure that any virus does not spread to other patients, healthcare workers or the community. This includes having protective equipment and isolation areas to protect staff and others from airborne exposure to COVID-19. Further, our clinicians train year-round to respond to any potential outbreaks of infectious diseases. Great Plains Regional Medical Center's visitation policies changed recently in order to further protect patients and healthcare workers. **NO visitors will be permitted to our facility.** The only exceptions will be:

- One parent or legal guardian of the patient who is a minor.
- Obstetric patients may have one support person to accompany them.
- If a single, approved designated visitor meets an exception, this individual must be determined at the time of hospitalization and may not be changed during hospital stay.

Patient safety is always paramount in the protection of our patients, visitors and staff. You can protect yourself from transmission of the virus by washing your hands often, avoiding close contact with others, staying home if sick, covering coughs and sneezes and cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces daily.

Those with general questions about coronavirus can call or go online using the resources below, which are updated regularly, including:

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at [cdc.gov/ncov](https://www.cdc.gov/ncov)
- The Oklahoma State Department of Health at <https://coronavirus.health.ok.gov/>

About GPRMC

Great Plains Regional Medical Center (GPRMC) provides comprehensive, cost effective high quality healthcare. GPRMC is governed by a board of directors comprised of business, community, and medical leaders from Western Oklahoma. Our commitment is to provide modern, state-of-the-art medical care while retaining the warmth and compassion of a community hospital. For more information, visit www.gprmc-ok.com.