

MEETING THE COMMUNITY'S NEEDS DURING CHALLENGING TIMES AND BEYOND



*By Tammy Torres
Chief Executive Officer, Salem Medical Center*

During these unprecedented times, there's no doubt we're all faced with change and uncertainty as we adjust to the "new normal" due to COVID-19. As your local community hospital, we are committed to protecting your health and the health of our community.

I firmly believe that we're all in this together. By staying home and following social distancing and CDC guidelines, each one of us plays an important role in helping to flatten the curve. At Salem Medical Center, we've taken aggressive steps to slow the spread of this virus in our community and to treat COVID-19 and other patients needing intensive care.

Since the onset of the COVID-19 crisis, we were in the forefront of discussions with NJ State representatives to determine how we could help absorb the expected surge of COVID-19 patients from Salem County and the southern NJ region. As hospital capacity is in demand across the state, we are undergoing a critical renovation to convert general medical-surgical beds into ICU beds. When completed, 58 beds will be available to service the demands of COVID-19 patients.

Additionally, we've expanded our Emergency Department to accommodate COVID-19 patients, now bringing our ER capacity to 22.

This monumental undertaking would not be possible without the dedicated efforts of our hospital medical, nursing and general staff, and unwavering support of our administration and board. Our dedicated staff is adhering to CDC guidelines and proper usage of PPE (personal protective equipment). We commend them for all that they do - they are truly our heroes!

To help communicate different aspects of COVID-19 to our community, we created a series of physician videos which I invite you to view on our website – smc.health.

Looking Forward

While we're working with great sense of urgency on the pressing needs before us, we are also focusing on our future. A great example of our progress is the expansion and relocation of our Wound Care Center to the front of the hospital, along with the planned addition of two hyperbaric chambers.

We're poised for growth and will continue to expand our suite of services to meet the needs of our community. I'm confident that by working together, we'll not only get through this crisis but come out stronger on the other side.



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