



**To:** All Catholic Health Associates and Medical Staff  
**From:** Marty Boryszak, Senior Vice President Acute Care Services  
**Date:** November 17, 2020  
**RE:** Closure of St. Joseph Campus Emergency Department

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The safety of our associates and patients is our top priority. COVID-19 cases throughout Erie County and at here Catholic Health have increased significantly over the last week. As cases continue to grow, we need to remain flexible and ensure we address the changes we are seeing in our hospitals and community with thoughtfulness, swiftness and based on data.

To maintain a culture of patient safety, quality care, and adequate staffing, we have made the decision to temporarily suspend all Emergency Department (ED) services at St. Joseph Campus beginning Thursday, November 19 at 7:00 a.m. At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, this approach helped Catholic Health leverage our bed capacity and talented team of caregivers across our system.

Human Resources and nursing leadership will be meeting with every member of the St. Joseph Campus ED team who is affected by this change to identify positions that meet their skillset and seniority. Education resources will also be available to staff for refresher training and support.

We gained tremendous knowledge from our COVID experience at St. Joseph Campus and have used that knowledge to create a hybrid model to care for COVID patients throughout our system. And while we continue to care for more than half of the COVID patients in Catholic Health at St. Joseph Campus, we are increasing bed capacity at all our hospitals to manage this growing surge. Outpatient and elective procedures will continue at this time, however, we are closely monitoring bed capacity and surge across the region and must be prepared for additional changes as necessary.

**At this time, it is up to every citizen in Erie County and Western New York to step up and protect our community, each other and YOU, our Healthcare Heroes, by wearing masks, washing hands, social distancing and limiting gatherings.**

Catholic Health set the precedent for COVID care and recovery, as well as protecting the safety of our associates, and with everyone's help, we will build on that to navigate the road ahead. Thank you for all you are doing to support this effort. We ask for your continued support and prayers as we work together as one team during this critical time in our community to offer the highest quality and safest care to our patients.