**covid-19 update**

April 24, 2020

Battle Mountain General Hospital confirms that 2 additional patients have tested positive for COVID-19. One patient initially presented to the clinic, was screened, assessed and immediately triaged to the drive-up clinic. The second patient was screened at the drive-up clinic and tested. Both patients were instructed upon testing to isolate at home. This brings the total for Lander County to 6 positive cases reported.

Our medical providers, and staff practice appropriate infection control precautions to protect all patients and staff in accordance with U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC). We will continue to work with Lander County Community Health and Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health to closely monitor developments related to these patients. An internal task force meets daily to discuss patient care, supplies, logistics, emergency management procedures and other necessary measures to ensure the health and safety of our patients and residents, employees, and our community.

With this update in status, our visitation restrictions will continue and clinic hours will change accordingly:

* We will continue the no visitation restrictions at the hospital and the Long Term Care. *Case by case exceptions may be made for compassionate care situations.*
* Clinic hours will temporarily be Monday through Friday, 8am-5pm, effective April 27, 2020.
* Patients will continue to be screened and assessed outside of the facility at the testing station located at the John Peters Health Center, **please call first.**

Patient, resident and staff safety is always paramount in the services we provide. **As we continue to test and treat individuals with symptoms and with these confirmed positives we now face a pivotal point in our response to COVID-19. We strongly urge all community members to continue practicing social distancing,** protect yourself from transmission of the virus by washing your hands often, avoiding close contact with others, staying home, covering coughs and sneezes and cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces daily.

If you are experiencing symptoms, such as fever, cough and shortness of breath we remind you to please call before visiting the Emergency Room or the Clinic and report **ANY** and **ALL** symptoms. As always, if someone requires a true emergency response, call 911.

On behalf of the entire BMGH staff, we send healing thoughts and hope for a quick recovery for these patients.