



November 19, 2020

A LETTER TO OUR COMMUNITY

As many, if not all of you, are aware, the number of Covid-19 cases are significantly increasing in our geographic area. They are also increasing across our state and across this nation.

At this very point in time, every tertiary care hospital in the state of Kansas is already at or beyond capacity. These are the hospitals that provide care to our patients above and beyond what we can provide here.

What does this mean for you? What does this mean for your family, your neighbor and your friends? It means that if we have a patient in our care here in Minneola, who needs a higher level of care such as ICU or Critical Care, we, the staff here at MHC, are finding it increasingly challenging to locate a hospital who will be able to accept any of our patients in transfer; including patients in need of cardiac care. Our experience over the last several weeks is that it can take anywhere from many hours to several days to locate a hospital who is able to accept our transfer patients. Based on the information we have received this situation does not appear to be resolving any time soon.

Because of this reality, we are asking every one of you to please put your personal beliefs regarding Covid-19 and masks aside during this moment in time. We all have a responsibility to care for our family, our neighbors, our friends and our community. We can do this by simply wearing a mask when we are out in public, washing our hands and maintaining a six-foot distance whenever possible. If you have Covid-19 symptoms, please stay home and contact your health care provider. If you have tested positive for Covid-19 and/or have been told to quarantine, please stay home as directed.

This is not what most of us want to do. However, we all need to do all we can to help slow this virus down. We need to slow this virus down so that we can begin to free up beds in the larger hospitals to not only care for Covid patients in significant need, but to also care for all other medical conditions that require us to transfer from our community hospital to other facilities. For every community that takes these steps, we are closer to making this happen.

Please know we do not want to upset anyone with this request. We are simply at a place in time where we need your help, and we are asking our community for that help in managing the spread of this virus which will enable us to better manage the coordination of care that our patients need and deliver the

quality of care that our patients deserve! At any given time, it could be our spouse, our mom or dad, or our child that will need that higher level of care.

Thank you for taking time to read this letter. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding as MHC works to care for all of you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debbie Bruner". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the printed name.

Debbie Bruner

CEO