

To Our Community:

Keefe Memorial Hospital is taking the current COVID-19 pandemic very seriously. COVID-19 is prevalent in our state and country, and there have been confirmed cases in our adjacent communities. While there are no confirmed cases in Cheyenne County yet, we are working hard to ensure we will be ready, if and when a case does occur.

We are learning more and more about the coronavirus daily, and how it affects people. To become sick with coronavirus, you have to be exposed. This means being in contact with someone (within 6 feet) for a prolonged period. You can be exposed through respiratory droplets, like if a person coughs or sneezes. You can also potentially get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has virus on it, and then touching your nose, mouth, or even your eyes. We know that certain people are at risk for getting very sick, including older people (over age 60) and those with underlying chronic medical conditions. We also know that COVID-19 is a lot more contagious than the common flu.

Because of these risks, we urge you to follow the guidelines of the current statewide stay-at-home order. If you do go out, wear a cloth mask or face covering. Practice social distancing. Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer regularly. We urge you to stay at home if you are feeling sick. All of these actions help to ensure the case numbers in our community stay to the minimum number possible and help to protect those around you who would be at risk for experiencing a more severe course of illness.

If you or a loved one are experiencing a cough and fever, or other symptoms such as fatigue, body aches, sore throat, headache, chills, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea, please contact Kit Carson Clinic, Prairie View Clinic, or Keefe Memorial Hospital for further guidance.

Concerning symptoms that require urgent evaluation include difficulty breathing, severe shortness of breath at rest, pain in your chest, pale, cold, clammy skin, little or no urine output, new confusion, or becoming increasingly sleepy or difficult to arouse. If you or a loved one are experiencing any of these symptoms, you should be seen by a provider at Keefe Memorial Hospital for evaluation. We ask that whenever possible, you call before presenting to the ER so that we may ensure safety to you and to our healthcare workers.

We want you to know your wellbeing and continued access to care is at the forefront of our minds. To that end, we have instituted several changes within our clinic and hospital to ensure your continued health and safety. We are currently in the process of implementing telemedicine at our clinic, to provide you with continued quality healthcare from the comfort (and safety!) of your home. If you do need to come see us in clinic, rest assured we have implemented many changes, from the flow of patients to the rooms utilized for 'sick' versus 'healthy' visits, to keep you safe during your time within our walls. Our staff is constantly reviewing procedure to continually reassess how best to keep you safe, and healthy.

We are here for you. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call the Prairie View Clinic at 767-5669, Kit Carson Clinic at 962-3501, or Keefe Memorial Hospital at 767-5661.

Sincerely,

Your Providers at Keefe Memorial Hospital, Prairie View Clinic and Kit Carson Clinic