



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Veronica Z. Vaughn  
Director of P.R. & Marketing  
Public Information Officer  
(520) 610-6052  
VVAUGHN@GRHC.ORG

## PRESS RELEASE

### Gila River Health Care Update on Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Sacaton, Arizona (Thursday, March 12, 2020): The following is a public service announcement by Gila River Health Care regarding its response to the recent cases of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) in both Arizona and across the U.S.

On March 11, 2020, Arizona Governor Doug Ducey declared a public health emergency (PHE) for the state of Arizona to boost the healthcare community's response to COVID-19. Per the Center for Disease Control (CDC), "Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are common in people and many different species of animals, including camels, cattle, cats, and bats. At this time, however, most people in the United States will have a minimal immediate risk of exposure to this virus. This virus is NOT currently spreading widely in the United States."

According to GRHC's Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Anthony Santiago, "Practicing good hand hygiene and ensuring that patients have their flu vaccination is paramount to help ensure the health and safety of everyone in the Community." As of the release of this statement, there are zero confirmed cases of COVID-19 within Gila River Health Care facilities.

#### What You Need to Know:

- **All visitation to The Caring House Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation is currently suspended. Contact a Caring House representative at (520) 562-7400.**
- **All visitation to the Residential Treatment Center is currently suspended.**
- **Additional visitor restrictions include:**
  - **Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital**
    - **Visitors limited to one family member for the Emergency Department, and Inpatient/Wound Care/Infusion Department.**
  - **East/West Dialysis Centers: Visitors limited to one family member.**

**About GRHC:** Gila River Health Care (GRHC) is an enterprise of the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC). For more information about the GRIC, go to [GILARIVER.ORG](http://GILARIVER.ORG). Administrative offices are headquartered at the Viola L. Johnson building thirty-five miles south of Phoenix, in Sacaton, Arizona. GRHC is an integrated healthcare system that serves Native Americans from federally-recognized tribal communities. Today, the organization is comprised of Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital, a 15-bed hospital with critical access designation located in Sacaton, AZ. This facility provides a wide range of primary and specialty care services and includes a state-of-the-art dialysis unit and skilled nursing facility (The Caring House). The Komatke Health Center is located in Laveen, Arizona, opened in January of 2009, expanding services to the western districts of the GRIC. Comprehensive primary and specialty health care services are offered while serving as a base for the satellite facility, the Ak-Chin Clinic located within the Ak-Chin Indian Community in Maricopa, AZ. Hau'pal (Red Tail Hawk) Health Center opened on August 1, 2018, is the third campus within the GRHC system.

**Please Note: Visitors to our sites may notice increased screening measures to ensure the health and safety of our patients.**

- **If experiencing symptoms, call the main number (520) 562-3321 prior to your arrival. Symptoms may include: fever, cough, and/or trouble breathing.**
- **VISIT [GRHC.ORG/CORONAVIRUS](https://www.grhc.org/coronavirus) OR CALL THE GRHC COVID-19 HOTLINE AT 520-550-6079.**

**What Patients Can Do to Help Control the Spread of COVID-19:**

Currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19 is available. “We remind our patients to be informed and vigilant in taking precautions to prevent the spread of illnesses,” says Interim Chief Executive Officer, Derrick Glum.

**To help mitigate the spread, do the following:**

- Stay informed!
- Help stop the Spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19):
  - ✓ WASH YOUR HANDS often and thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
  - ✓ AVOID TOUCHING your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
  - ✓ COVER YOUR COUGHS & SNEEZES with a tissue or cough or sneeze in your sleeve.
  - ✓ AVOID SHARING household items with a person who is ill with a respiratory illness.
  - ✓ CLEAN ALL SURFACES such as counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, phones, keyboards, tablets, & bedside tables daily.
  - ✓ MONITOR YOUR SYMPTOMS if you have a cough, fever and are having trouble breathing, please contact your health care provider and take steps to keep other people from getting infected.
  - ✓ PRIOR TO OR UPON ARRIVAL to the hospital/clinic, please notify us of your symptoms. Wear a face mask to protect yourself and others.

**VISIT [GRHC.ORG/CORONAVIRUS](https://www.grhc.org/coronavirus) OR CALL THE GRHC COVID-19 HOTLINE AT 520-550-6079.**

###

**About GRHC:** Gila River Health Care (GRHC) is an enterprise of the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC). For more information about the GRIC, go to [GILARIVER.ORG](https://www.gilariver.org). Administrative offices are headquartered at the Viola L. Johnson building thirty-five miles south of Phoenix, in Sacaton, Arizona. GRHC is an integrated healthcare system that serves Native Americans from federally-recognized tribal communities. Today, the organization is comprised of Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital, a 15-bed hospital with critical access designation located in Sacaton, AZ. This facility provides a wide range of primary and specialty care services and includes a state-of-the-art dialysis unit and skilled nursing facility (The Caring House). The Komatke Health Center is located in Laveen, Arizona, opened in January of 2009, expanding services to the western districts of the GRIC. Comprehensive primary and specialty health care services are offered while serving as a base for the satellite facility, the Ak-Chin Clinic located within the Ak-Chin Indian Community in Maricopa, AZ. Hau'pal (Red Tail Hawk) Health Center opened on August 1, 2018, is the third campus within the GRHC system.