
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tri-County Health Care suspends new building project

WADENA, Minn. – April 2, 2020 – The Coronavirus pandemic has led to health care facilities across the country to shift focus from regular patient flow to preparing for this emergency situation. Tri-County Health Care has taken on a lead role in the efforts for community mitigation efforts in the area. However, this has led to the difficult decision to suspend activities related to continued planning and construction of the new building project, Joel Beiswenger, President and CEO, announced during a virtual press conference on Wednesday morning. The suspension, effective immediately, is expected to delay the process by at least one construction season.

“We are aware of the present national, state and local emergency situation with the Coronavirus pandemic,” Beiswenger said. “The Tri-County Health Care Board of Directors, Leadership and Medical Staff recognize that our mission critical objective is to expend all of our energy to meet the present needs of our patients, communities and staff during this crisis.”

The planning for the building project began three years ago as Tri-County Health Care aimed to create the rural health center of the future to serve the region. The plan for the project is to continue the evolution of the shift from inpatient to outpatient care while allowing for enhanced patient and staff safety, privacy, security and comfort.

Notification of the suspension has been sent to project partners, including the architect, contractor, engineers, financing agencies and other consultants and all have been gracious and willing to work through this process. Fundraising efforts related to the project have also been suspended. The plan is to resume the project planning and construction in the future. When that will happen will depend on the outcome of the Coronavirus crisis, but the goal is to break ground in the spring of 2021.

Tri-County Health Care has taken steps while preparing for any potential patient surge due to the Coronavirus. This includes preserving critical needs equipment and supplies, introducing new screening processes and other protective measures for patients and staff and working with Emergency Operations and Public Health agencies in Wadena, Todd and Otter Tail counties.

A virtual town hall meeting for the community is being planned to provide updates on Tri-County Health Care’s preparedness and actions in regards to the Coronavirus crisis. This town hall will include Beiswenger and Chief Medical Officer, Ben Hess, M.D. A date and time for the event is yet to be determined.

Tri-County Health Care reminds the public to practice social distancing, good hygiene practices, and to eat well, exercise and get plenty of rest during this pandemic. For additional updates and to learn more, please visit TCHC.org/coronavirus or search Tri-County Health Care on Facebook.



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ABOUT TRI-COUNTY HEALTH CARE

Tri-County Health Care is a private, not-for-profit health care system based in Wadena, Minnesota. It offers care services such as primary health, surgery, cancer care, diagnostic imaging, obstetrics, orthopedics and rehabilitation. Tri-County Health Care operates a hospital and medical clinic in Wadena, and serves the counties of Wadena, Todd and Otter Tail through five satellite clinics and two physical therapy clinics in Bertha, Henning, Ottertail, Sebeka and Verndale. Visit TCHC.org.

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