

CONTACT: Elizabeth Callinan, Public Information Officer, xxx-xxx-xxxx

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Saint Mary's Hospital Diagnoses MERS Patient in Connecticut

Waterbury, Conn., (February 16, 2020) – Saint Mary's Hospital has admitted and diagnosed a patient with Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), a respiratory infection caused by the coronavirus and related to severe acute respiratory syndrome or SARS virus. The patient was immediately placed in isolation on Saturday after being admitted to the hospital to control the virus.

Steven E. Schneider, M.D., President at Saint Mary's Hospital, reported, "There is a low risk of this virus having spread to others in the community." The patient did not interact in the community and only limited contact with family members. Entering the Emergency Room, the patient wore a mask and alerted medical personnel immediately. The patient was taken directly to isolation.

The staff was briefed on the situation. The hospital staff is trained for dealing with a contagious disease and are following the protocol. The employees who were in contact with the patient are under observation.

We have contacted and remain in communication with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention regarding the patient. Also, the staff has been in contact with another hospital that diagnosed a patient with MERS. This information increases our understanding of the disease and allows us to act proactively.

Steven E. Schneider, M.D., President at Saint Mary's Hospital, said, "I am proud of the staff at Saint Mary's Hospital who acted quickly to initiate our Contagious Disease Plan into

action. The patient is quarantined, employees in contact with the patient have been placed in observation. We have reported to the Center for Disease Control and been in contact the patient's family. We will continue to keep the community updated on any new information."

The patient recently returned home after traveling abroad and only has been in contact with family members. The family members are now under quarantine in their home.

Saint Mary's Hospital

Saint Mary's Hospital is a Catholic, not-for-profit, acute care, a community teaching hospital that has served Greater Waterbury since 1909. In 2016, Saint Mary's Hospital became part of Trinity Health of New England, an integrated health care delivery system that is a member of Trinity Health, Livonia, Michigan. Licensed for 347 beds, Saint Mary's is designated as a Level II Trauma Center, offers award-winning cardiac and stroke care, and houses the region's only pediatric emergency care unit. As the leading provider of surgical services in Greater Waterbury, Saint Mary's was the first to introduce the daVinci® Robotic Surgery System. The hospital's satellites and affiliates extend from Waterbury to Wolcott, Cheshire, Naugatuck, Southbury, Prospect, and Watertown. Visit stmh.org for more information and follow us on Facebook at [SaintMarysHospitalCT](https://www.facebook.com/SaintMarysHospitalCT), Instagram, and Twitter at [@SaintMarysCT](https://twitter.com/SaintMarysCT).

###