



the Regional Medical Center

TO: Legislative Delegation
Orangeburg County Council
Calhoun County Council
Bamberg County Council
Elected Officials

FROM: E. Berton Whitaker, Interim President & CEO

DATE: September 8, 2017

RE: **HURRICANE IRMA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN AT RMC**

RMC Leadership, members of the Hospital Incident Command Team and staff have been closely monitoring Hurricane Irma. The RMC Hospital Emergency Operations and Hurricane plans have been implemented. The RMC Hospital Command Center will be activated on Sunday at 7:00 p.m. and will be maintained by Hospital Incident Management Team Members. The Command Center will activate a message phone line, 803-395-4111, to provide pertinent information updates via recorded messages beginning at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday.

Currently the storm is expected to hit the Orangeburg region late Sunday night or early Monday morning. Here are some key elements of the RMC Emergency Operations Plan:

- The RMC Safety Officer is working closely with local Emergency Management officials, DHEC, S.C. Hospital Association (SCHA), the Lowcountry Hospital Preparedness Coalition and others to mitigate hazards and prepare for responses to Irma. RMC and hospitals across the state will send updates every four hours to a central tracking portal to track resources throughout the state.
- TEAM A clinical and support staff will report on Sunday at 7:00 pm and remain on site through the duration of the emergency. Staff sleeping accommodations will be provided on site. Administration including myself will be on site to assist until an "All Clear" is called, regardless of how long that takes. TEAM B recovery staff will report within one hour of the "All Clear" to replace TEAM A.
- Extra pharmaceuticals, medical supplies, linens, food and bottled water have been stocked. Generators have been fueled and tested with additional fuel in reserve. Redundant communications methods including 800 megahertz radios, two-way radios, walkie/talkies, and a ham radio stand ready.
- All RMC primary care and specialty care practices as well as the Mabry Center for Cancer Care will be closed on Monday. Currently, plans are to reopen on Tuesday. Plans call for primary care and specialty care practices will be expanded their office hours on Friday. Additionally, clinic hours will be provided on Saturday for those who missed appointments to ensure the patients get the care they need.

. If you have any questions, please call Administration at 803-395-2200, or contact the Hospital Incident Command Center at 803-395-5960 after 7:00 pm on Sunday. As always, you can also call my cell phone at 270-836-4478.