



March 22, 2020

City Council Members of Rapid City:

At Monument Health, we have been actively monitoring COVID-19 and preparing to care for our communities in varying outbreak scenarios for several weeks. Although new developments in testing and treatment are reported daily that provide some hope, we are aware of the threat and prepared for the worst.

New predictive models allow us to use information we have learned about this illness from other locations and apply it locally to help make data-driven decisions. Although the actual number of cases we can expect is difficult to predict, data shows that all communities need to take further action to slow the spread. Recent history also shows that mitigation efforts including community-wide home quarantine, shutdown of non-essential businesses, restricting travel, closing schools, canceling events, social distancing and proper hygiene can all contribute to a lower number of cases.

To the extent that these actions are possible within our community and the country, we support our leaders in the difficult decisions they face. We must do all that we can to protect our communities.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paulette Davidson".

Paulette Davidson  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Monument Health

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brad Archer".

Brad Archer, M.D.  
Chief Medical Officer  
Monument Health