

For Immediate Release

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Hospice of Acadiana Implements Altered and Crisis Standards of Care in Response to Covid-19

*Hospice of Acadiana Enacts Infectious Disease Protocols to Ensure
Patient and Staff Safety and Disease Containment*

March 16, 2020 (Lafayette, LA) - Hospice of Acadiana has implemented stringent protocols for homebound and facility-based hospice care to ensure patient safety and minimize potential disease exposure. The plan in place has been heavily influenced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and local public health authorities, as well as industry best practices.

Karl Broussard, CEO of Hospice of Acadiana, explained that “our first priority is always the care and safety of our patients. In light of the recent pandemic, we have a responsibility and obligation to do all we can as an organization and as individuals to limit the spread of this disease. The actions we take today have a direct effect on the impact Covid-19 could have on our community days, weeks, and months from now.”

The elderly population, along with those with compromised immune systems, are at greatest risk, and also account for a large percentage of Hospice of Acadiana patients. As such, Hospice of Acadiana has implemented infectious disease protocols to ensure the risk of exposure is mitigated. This includes decreased weekly visits for stable, non-transitioning patients; use of disposable scrubs and foot covers replaced at each visit; continued sanitation of all equipment following each visit; limited volunteer interaction; ongoing, daily monitoring of staff wellness; and staff avoidance of highly populated areas personally and professionally.

“This pandemic is unlike anything we’ve ever seen,” said Camille Claibourne, RN, PhD and Member, Hospice of Acadiana Board of Directors. “Undoubtedly, this could get worse before it gets better. However, by exercising prudent care practices, and acting out of an abundance of caution, we are able to reduce the risk of exposure for our patients and their families.”

Coronavirus Disease, COVID-19, was first discovered in China in December of 2019 in a cluster of pneumonia cases. This is a novel virus that is continuing to spread around the world. As with any other newly identified virus there is much to learn about the disease process, mode of transmission, incubation period, symptoms, and treatment.

Hospice of Acadiana, established in 1983, is Louisiana’s oldest hospice and palliative care provider, and the only non-profit provider in Acadiana. As a non-profit provider, patients receive all of the care they need, regardless of the cost or their ability to pay. HOA also offers several programs and services to the community at-large free of charge, including: Grief Counseling, Loss and Transition Workshops, Camp Brave Hearts, Pet Peace of Mind, and We Honor Veterans. For more information on care or services, contact Karl Broussard, 337-232-1234 or Karl@hospiceacadiana.com.