Citing Financial Burden Caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic
Barrett Hospital & HealthCare
Announces Reduction in Workforce and Reduced Hours for Staff

Dillon, MT., April 22, 2020 - Barrett Hospital & HealthCare announced today a reduction in workforce due to the suspending of elective medical procedures and other services during the COVID-19 pandemic, forcing Barrett to make cost reductions a top priority. Barrett Hospital & HealthCare is taking immediate steps to reduce costs, including a reduction of five employees along with reduced hours for a number of staff.

“We take very seriously the responsibility to meet the health care needs of our community, as well as preserve the well-being and capability of our enterprise for the future,” said Ken Westman, CEO Barrett Hospital & HealthCare. “These are unprecedented times, and this was not a decision we wanted to make nor do we take it lightly, but we have to take immediate action to ensure that we can sustain our operations during and after the COVID-19 crisis ends.”

The list of hospital systems across the nation announcing staffing changes, as Barrett Hospital & HealthCare has done, grows each day. With so many non-emergency procedures and surgeries that have been placed on hold to prepare for COVID-19 patients, hospital systems don’t need the workforce they required just weeks ago, and they don’t have the revenue. Barrett Hospital & HealthCare is seeing fewer patients than normal in its hospital and clinic and has had to reduce, reconfigure, or in some cases curtail, many of its services in accordance with the state order in place to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 to non-infected patients.

“Elective surgeries are one of the cornerstones of our hospital’s operating model — and the negative financial impact due to the cancellations of these procedures cannot be overstated. In addition, patients are understandably cautious and choosing to defer any non-emergency treatments or routine visits until this COVID-19 crisis slows down,” said Westman.

In less than 1 month, COVID-19 has made swift, deep cuts in hospital and clinic billings, with Barrett Hospital & HealthCare estimating a revenue loss of $2MM in April alone.

ABOUT BARRETT HOSPITAL & HEALTHCARE
Barrett Hospital & HealthCare is a non-profit critical access hospital (CAH) in Dillon, Montana. Critical access hospitals make up approximately twenty-five percent of hospitals in the United States; there are 1,343 in the nation, with 50 critical access hospitals in Montana. Barrett Hospital & HealthCare is a four-time recipient for being a Top 20 Critical Access Hospital of the 20 highest ranked Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) in the nation by National Rural Health Association (NRHA). For more information, visit www.barretthospital.org

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