Dillon, MT., May 04, 2020 - Barrett Hospital & HealthCare announced today plans to open more clinic visits, diagnostic imaging services, lab testing, along with physical, occupational and speech therapies, as well as some elective procedures. For safety, a mandatory mask policy for patients and staff on both campuses is in place, requiring masks to be worn in the hospital and clinic.

Elective procedures are surgeries and other procedures that are planned and are performed in the hospital Operating Room. Patients scheduled for elective procedures that could require intubation or aerosol-generating procedures are COVID-19 tested several days prior to their procedure. COVID-19 testing samples from elective procedure patients are sent off for lab analysis and take about three to four business days for results. Patients will need to self-quarantine for the period of time between the test sample being collected and the date of their scheduled procedure.

The Montana Hospital Association now recommends restarting elective procedures, after calling for them to be canceled in late March as concerns grew over a potential spike of COVID-19 cases. “We’re pleased that the stay-at-home policies have been successful in diminishing the impact of COVID-19 locally,” said Ken Westman, CEO Barrett Hospital & HealthCare. “The pause in non-essential procedures was a strategy to ‘conserve critical resources’ for the COVID-19 outbreak. We understand that it has been challenging on patients to delay elective procedures and we are working thoroughly to ensure safety measures are in place that will give patients, their families, our staff and others the peace of mind and assurances that they can safely get the care they need.” Barrett Hospital & HealthCare says in time it will slowly ramp-up additional services, and yet, is ready to scale back services and elective procedures if necessary.

Barrett Hospital & HealthCare has put in place many other safety measures at its hospital and clinic:
- Patients are screened for fever and respiratory symptoms at the entrances.
- All employees are screened when they come to work.
- A mandatory mask policy for patients and staff.
- Cloth masks for patients are being distributed at all open entrances to those who do not already have one.
- No visitors are allowed on campus unless a caregiver is needed to assist the patient.
- Patients are being asked to arrive for appointments right when they start.
- Patients will be waiting in their cars until called in for some services.
- Hand sanitizer is available for good hand hygiene practices.
- Waiting and common areas have been redesigned to allow for 6 feet of social distancing.
- We continue to disinfect patient care areas after each patient use
- High touch surfaces in common areas are disinfected on a schedule at greater frequency.

Media Contact:
Christie Trapp, Marketing Manager/ COVID-19 Public Relations Officer
ctrapp@barretthospital.org

###