



## Mercy Health and Saint Joseph Mercy Health System take necessary steps to manage resources during COVID-19

**CANTON and NORTON SHORES, Mich. (April 1, 2020)** – Today Mercy Health and Saint Joseph Mercy Health System, which comprise the Michigan region of Trinity Health, announced that the health systems will be implementing temporary furloughs for a limited number of mostly non-clinical colleagues over the next few weeks.

This action will enable the health systems to focus resources on the functions directly related to essential COVID-19 patient care needs, while protecting people and helping to prevent the spread of the virus.

For the combined eight hospitals across Michigan, the temporary furloughs represent roughly 10% of its workforce - 2,500 colleagues. Impacted colleagues will continue to retain benefits including health, dental and basic life insurance. These furloughs are temporary, with the goal to bring back as many affected colleagues as possible at the appropriate time, as the situation evolves.

Additionally, executive leaders (vice president level and above) are taking compensation reductions up to 25%, and the elimination of all performance-based incentives during this time.

These actions are a necessary response to the changes and challenges impacting health care providers across the country, as COVID-19 rapidly spreads and leading health care experts predict a surge of cases over the coming weeks and months. The proportion of furloughed staff is far less than the 50%-60% loss of revenues the health system has withstood since the crisis began - driven by the loss of elective and routine medical care, and the pausing of many administrative functions.

"Our priority is the care and safety of our colleagues and the people we serve, and our colleagues have never worked harder than they are working today," said Rob Casalou, president and CEO, Trinity Health Michigan. "These are difficult steps that are intended

to make sure we are able to provide the best possible care for our patients and communities through this unprecedented time."

Even as some colleagues take temporary furloughs, Mercy Health and St. Joe's are redeploying approximately 10% of colleagues to jobs that are needed to respond to the crisis, as their skills and qualifications allow. The health systems will continue to evaluate this on an ongoing basis. These necessary shifts in our workforce will enable the health system to better meet the challenges of the pandemic.

Mercy Health and St Joe's continue to prepare and respond to COVID-19, both in the immediate term and over the weeks and months to come. This includes expanding capacity through increased clinical staffing, beds and ventilators in the hospitals, expanding telehealth visits with physicians, and expanding lab testing and turnaround time for results. For ongoing updates and resources from St. Joe's related to COVID-19, please visit. <https://www.stjoeshealth.org/health-and-wellness/coronavirus>.

#### **About Trinity Health Michigan**

Trinity Health Michigan is a leading health care provider and one of the state's largest employers. With more than 24,000 full-time employees serving numerous counties, Trinity Health Michigan is composed of eight hospitals, including the five hospitals of Saint Joseph Mercy Health System located in Ann Arbor, Chelsea, Howell, Livonia and Pontiac, and the three-hospital Mercy Health, operating in Grand Rapids and Muskegon. The health system has 2,348 beds and 3,400 physicians. With operating revenues of \$3.4 billion, Trinity Health Michigan returns \$195 million back to their local communities each year. Together with numerous ambulatory care locations, three home health agencies, one hospice agency and 17 senior living communities owned and/or operated by Trinity Health, Trinity Health Michigan provides the full continuum of care for Michigan residents.

Nationally, Trinity Health is among the country's largest Catholic health care systems. Based in Livonia, Michigan, with operations in 22 states, Trinity Health employs about 129,000 colleagues, including 7,500 physicians and clinicians. The system has annual operating revenues of \$18.3 billion, assets of nearly \$27 billion, and returns about \$1.2 billion to its communities annually in the form of charity care and other community benefit programs. For more information, visit [www.trinity-health.org](http://www.trinity-health.org).