

**June 12, 2023**

## **Catholic Health Announces Reconfiguration Plan at Mount St. Mary's Hospital**

As healthcare continues its shift from inpatient to outpatient care, and providers everywhere face staffing and reimbursement challenges, Catholic Health is focusing on the future by developing “Centers of Excellence” within our hospital network and creating a “Neighborhood Hospital” model to serve residents throughout Niagara County. By concentrating specialized services in facilities equipped with the most advanced technology, we are developing a more transformative care delivery model to provide the highest quality care and service to patients across the Buffalo-Niagara region and enable them to receive the majority of their healthcare within their own community.

The strength of our system, in terms of quality, safety, and patient satisfaction, is helping us respond to the seismic changes happening in healthcare as a result of the pandemic and other industry pressures. By proactively responding to these changes and adapting our footprint in Erie and Niagara Counties, we can maintain the specialized services our community needs in a more responsible way and ensure access to care for the long term.

As this important work continues throughout CH, a reconfiguration plan will be taking place at Mount St. Mary's Hospital over the next few weeks. Plans call for creating a Neighborhood Hospital similar to what is being built at the new Lockport Memorial Hospital. The reconfiguration will reduce the hospital's inpatient bed need; transition surgery, maternity, dialysis, and GI services to other Catholic Health hospitals; and discontinue imaging services at its Porter Road site in Niagara Falls.

MSMH is the highest rated hospital in Niagara County for quality and Catholic Health leads the region in patient safety. While this reconfiguration is necessary to continue our mission, our commitment to the people of Niagara County will never change. Much discernment and planning has gone into this process to ensure patients will have needed medical and emergency services in their own community with improved access to higher levels of quality care at Centers of Excellence throughout CH.

While these changes are underway, MSMH will be adding ambulatory surgery, inpatient medical beds, emergency

care, imaging/lab services, and primary and specialty care physician practices with the opening of Lockport Memorial Hospital and the acquisition of Eastern Niagara Hospital's Ambulatory Surgery Center on S. Transit Road.

Along with inpatient medical services, MSMH will maintain its Emergency Department, 69-bed Clearview Treatment Center, and Wound Care Center. The hospital will also maintain its broad network of primary and specialty care clinics, including OB-GYN, cardiology, and neurology services; and outpatient diagnostic and rehabilitation centers. As the region's only Joint Commission Certified Primary Stroke Center, MSMH will continue to work with area EMS providers to deliver the highest quality stroke care in Niagara County.

In addition to inpatient medical care and strong emergency services, our goal is to ensure residents across Niagara County continue to have access to primary care physicians and specialists right in their own community. For higher levels of care, patients will have improved access to CH's comprehensive network of services at Mercy Hospital, Sisters Hospital, and Kenmore Mercy Hospital, along with our expanded ambulatory surgery network.

Over the coming months, CH will continue to develop Centers of Excellence in Stroke, Cardiovascular, Orthopedic, Spine, and Women's Services. Leading the transformation of healthcare in our community means taking bold steps now to position our system for the future. Investing in modern facilities, equipped with the latest clinical and information technology, will enable our skilled staff to continue providing the most advanced care available anywhere in WNY.

While the decision to close services is never easy, our top priority is to ensure our patients continue to receive the highest quality care and any impacted associates are provided with other opportunities within our system. Maternity and surgical patients will be receiving information in the coming days to transition their care to other Catholic Health facilities after June 30. Staff impacted by the changes at MSMH will be offered other positions at the hospital, Lockport Memorial Hospital, or within CH. The hospital is working with its union labor partners to facilitate these transitions and we thank them for their continued support.