[LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, May 18] – Arkansas’s hospitals provide high-quality, patient-centered care for patients during the COVID-19 pandemic, just as they did before the virus arrived in our state. In an ongoing emergency like this one, the need for safe medical care is more essential than ever. Emergent, non-emergent, and preventive care is still available to Arkansans, 24 hours a day; and it is still safe to access that care.

In the first two months of the COVID-19 outbreak in Arkansas, hospitals in the state reported an estimated 47 percent reduction in the number of the patients seeking care in their emergency departments, compared with the same months last year. This means individuals with serious health conditions or symptoms may be avoiding hospitals out of fear of catching COVID-19 or contributing to its spread. Yet, delaying or avoiding care can lead to further health complications, long-term health problems, and, in some cases, death.

Hospitals have always prioritized infection prevention and patient safety. Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, hospitals throughout the state have further enhanced safety precautions to protect employees and patients, while we care for the sick and injured, including intensive cleaning processes throughout the hospitals, adjustments to check-in and waiting room protocols, limits on the number of visitors allowed per patient, and other measures.

Arkansas Hospital Association CEO, Bo Ryall, urges Arkansans: "So many parts of life are 'on-hold' during the pandemic – your health should not be one of them. Do not delay care for your urgent health needs. Hospitals will continue to fight COVID-19, and they will continue to safely and effectively care for other health needs in their communities. Responding to emergencies and preventing infections are two of the most important priorities of hospitals, 365 days a year, pandemic or no pandemic."

[The Arkansas Hospital Association has 103 member hospitals that serve Arkansans living in cities, towns and communities located throughout the state. For more than 90 years, the association’s leadership has focused on advocacy that promotes initiatives to improve health care access, quality, value, service and safety. In partnership with our members and stakeholders, the association also provides resources, builds alliances and develops services that support Arkansas hospitals, as they strive to deliver superior health care to all Arkansans.]

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ARKANSAS’S HOSPITALS ARE SAFE AND READY TO CARE FOR ALL ARKANSANS

Contact: Ashley Warren
Phone: 501-551-3462
Email: awarren@arkhospitals.org