



## Press Release

### For More Information Contact:

Phillip Rau  
Communications & Engagement Strategies -  
(518) 481-2248  
prau@alicehyde.com

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### **Alice Hyde Medical Center Issues Temporary Visitation, Program Restrictions** *Student, Volunteer Programs Suspended; Outside Groups' Use of AHMC Facilities Restricted*

### For Immediate Release

**Malone, NY (03/13/2020)** – As part of preparations and safety precautions around coronavirus (COVID-19) UVM Health Network – Alice Hyde Medical Center on Friday temporarily suspended its Student and Volunteer programs, restricted the use of hospital facilities by community members and outside groups, and announced temporary protocols for hospital visitors which will go into effect Monday, March 16.

Starting Monday, March 16, UVM Health Network – Alice Hyde Medical Center will institute temporary restrictions for patient visitors at the hospital. Those restrictions include limiting patients to two designated visitors who may visit throughout the course of their hospital stay and requiring all visitors to enter through the hospital's Main Entrance on Park Street, where they will undergo mandatory screenings.

The hospital will also restrict use of Alice Hyde Dining Center and Park Street Café by the general public. Both facilities will still be open to patient visitors.

Matt Jones, Alice Hyde's Chief Operating Officer, said the temporary restrictions are protective measures being taken to ensure the health and safety of patients and employees.

"Alice Hyde's strong connection to the community means we have a strong presence by residents here every day," said Jones. "We appreciate the support and passion for our hospital and community. Right now the best way to support our mission of putting patients first is to limit the number of visitors who do not have a health care purpose."

On Friday Alice Hyde also announced that it is temporarily suspending its Volunteer and Student programs until further notice, and suspending the use of any Alice Hyde facilities by outside groups. That restriction will affect various support groups in the community which hold weekly or monthly meetings at Alice Hyde. Those groups were being notified Friday, said Jones.

Tina Andrews-Perry, Alice Hyde's Volunteer and Student Services Coordinator, said she had reached out post-secondary institutions that currently have students enrolled in programs at Alice Hyde, to notify them of the suspension, which affects about 200 students. The suspension of the hospital's volunteer program affects about 50 individuals, she said.

"It's with great regret that we make this announcement, but it's critically important that we keep our patients and people safe," said Andrews-Perry. "We are doing everything in our power to ensure our

partner organizations and students get the clinical experience they need to fulfil their requirements and continue pursuing careers in health care.”

For more information on coronavirus and COVID-19, please visit the New York State Department of Health dedicated website: <https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/>

UVM Health Network has also launched a website dedicated to informing the public about the virus and the disease it causes. The website, [www.uvmhealth.org/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx](http://www.uvmhealth.org/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx), includes updates with the latest information on COVID-19 in our region, answers to frequently asked questions about the disease, and educational resources from public health officials and experts at UVM Health Network.

You can help stop the spread of infection by:

- Using soap and water, wash your hands often and for at least 20 seconds each time you wash – especially after using the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve, not your hands. Remember to wash your hands after coughing or sneezing.
- Clean and disinfect frequently-touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

#### **If You Think You're Sick**

- Contact your Primary Care Provider's office and remain at home unless your health care provider instructs you otherwise.

###

#### **About Alice Hyde Medical Center**

Alice Hyde Medical Center is a private, not-for-profit hospital located in Malone, NY. Established in 1913, Alice Hyde Medical Center is comprised of a 76-bed acute care facility, four family health centers, a walk-in clinic, cancer center, orthopedic and physical rehabilitation center, cardiac rehabilitation unit, and a dental center. The medical center provides a 24-hour MD staffed emergency department, laboratory, a full array of surgical services, and a wide range of outpatient services. For over 100 years, Alice Hyde Medical Center has been providing high-quality, low-cost health care to the more than 55,000 residents of the North Country. In early 2015, Alice Hyde opened The Alice Center, a new, state of the art 135-bed skilled nursing facility with a 30-bed Assisted Living Program. The facility replaced two obsolete skilled care facilities located in Malone, and is the first such facility to be constructed in Franklin County. Alice Hyde Medical Center is governed by a 13-member Board of Directors, and is accredited by the Joint Commission. Learn more at [UVMHealth.org/AHMC](http://UVMHealth.org/AHMC)



#### **About The University of Vermont Health Network**

The University of Vermont Health Network is an integrated system serving the residents of Vermont and northern New York with a shared mission: working together, we improve people's lives. The partners are:

- [The University of Vermont Medical Center](#)
- [The University of Vermont Health Network Medical Group](#)
- [The University of Vermont Health Network – Alice Hyde Medical Center](#)
- [The University of Vermont Health Network – Central Vermont Medical Center](#)
- [The University of Vermont Health Network – Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital](#)
- [The University of Vermont Health Network – Elizabethtown Community Hospital](#)
- [The University of Vermont Health Network – Porter Medical Center](#)
- [The University of Vermont Health Network Home Health & Hospice](#)

Our 4,000 health care professionals are driven to provide high-quality, cost-efficient care as close to home as possible. Strengthened by our academic connection to the University of Vermont, each of our affiliates remains committed to its local community by providing compassionate, personal care shaped by the latest medical advances and delivered by highly skilled experts.