Contact: Ilene Evans
Phone: (910) 457-3900

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Dosher Issues Information on Novel Coronavirus

SOUTHPORT— Dosher Memorial Hospital is closely monitoring developments regarding COVID-19, also known as Novel Coronavirus. "We're reminding people to take the same steps they would normally take to avoid catching a virus, such as washing their hands frequently, covering their mouths when they sneeze or cough, not touching their face, and staying home when they're sick," said Lisa Tyson, RN, COHN-S, Dosher's Infection Preventionist.

The hospital has protocols in place to deal with emerging infectious diseases, including patient travel history screenings and a mask-wearing policy for certain symptoms.

Hospital officials are staying current on the latest information through the CDC COVID-19 website and our state and local health department websites, as this is a rapidly evolving situation. The current immediate health risk to the general public is considered low at this time.

Persons who are experiencing symptoms such as a fever, cough or shortness of breath and have visited countries with <u>elevated travel advisories</u> or had close contact with someone who is suspected to have COVID-19 in the past 14 days should seek immediate medical attention.

- Before you go to the doctor's office, emergency room or urgent care, call ahead and tell them your symptoms and recent travel history.
- Avoid contact with others.
- Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.
- Do not travel while sick.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

Given the information about COVID-19 and the spread of the virus is rapidly changing, information is subject to change. The North Carolina Division of Public Health has established a call line at **1-866-462-3821** to address general questions about coronavirus from the public. More information can be found on the CDC, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services and Brunswick County Health Department websites.

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