

Media Advisory

Arizona nurses head north to combat COVID-19

Banner Health donor provides jet to fly critical care nurses to Greeley

GREELEY, Colo. (March 28, 2020) – As the number of hospitalized patients with COVID-19 continues to grow, Banner Health is importing teams of critical nurses to its hardest hit hospitals in Colorado for much needed support.

On Sunday, 10 nurses from three Banner hospitals in the Phoenix area will arrive in Greeley to serve a two-week assignment at North Colorado Medical Center. Their travel by private jet was made possible by a donation from Jerry Moyes, founder, chairman and CEO of Phoenix-based Swift Transportation, one of the largest trucking companies in the United States and owner of Swift Aviation. The donation was made to the Banner Health Foundation.

The group is expected to arrive at 1:30 p.m. Sunday at Weld County Airport, 600 Airport Road #A in Greeley.

Patti Farmer, human resources business partner for Banner Health Western Region, said being a part of a large health care system makes it possible to shift resources where they are needed most. According to Johns Hopkins University, as of Saturday afternoon, Colorado reported 1,740 cases of COVID-19 and 31 deaths while Arizona had 773 cases and 15 deaths. Banner Health hospitals in Greeley, Fort Collins and Loveland all currently are treating patients who have tested positive or are awaiting results of COVID-19 and have enacted surge plans to increase capacity for critical care services.

“The thing that has been the most exciting about this is being able to tell our team who are working hard right now that because we’re part of a larger system, we can get these resources so quickly,” Farmer said. “I’m blown away.”

For media interested in interviewing Banner Health team members at the airport Sunday, please confirm with Sara Quale at 970-310-3749. B-roll and video interviews will be available for download late afternoon on Sunday. Email sara.quale@bannerhealth.com for links to access those assets.

Headquartered in Arizona, Banner Health is one of the largest nonprofit health care systems in the country. The system owns and operates 28 acute-care hospitals, Banner Health Network, Banner – University Medicine, academic and employed physician groups, long-term care centers, outpatient surgery centers and an array of other services; including Banner Urgent Care, family clinics, home care and hospice services, pharmacies and a nursing registry. Banner Health is in six states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Nebraska, Nevada and Wyoming. For more information, visit www.BannerHealth.com.

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