



OSF HealthCare receives state grant for Pandemic Health Navigator program

For Immediate Release

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(ROCKFORD, Illinois | April 26, 2021) – OSF HealthCare has been awarded a grant by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) to support the Pandemic Health Navigator program in Region 1, which includes Boone, Carroll, DeKalb, Jo Daviess, Lee, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside and Winnebago counties.

The announcement was made today by Governor J.B. Pritzker’s office, leaders from the Illinois Public Health Association (IPHA), Illinois Primary Health Care Association (IPHCA), and other health experts during a news conference at VNA Health Care in Aurora to announce a new, collaborative program designed to help residents move forward from the health, social and economic hardships created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“OSF HealthCare is honored to be the recipient of the Pandemic Health Navigator grant,” said Jennifer Junis, senior vice president, OSF OnCall. “As we continue to experience COVID-19 in our communities, we want to do everything we can to contain the spread of the virus and protect the well-being of our communities. This grant will greatly assist our Pandemic Health Navigator program in caring for the people in our communities impacted by COVID-19.”

Features of the Pandemic Health Navigator program include:

- Provides health and disease prevention education
- Connects residents to local services and resources
- Provides access to resources to address social determinants of health

In addition, the program works to connect residents with local community organizations, services and resources that may be needed to help maintain health and wellness.

There have been several recent examples of the navigators helping residents in the Rockford area. In one case, the navigator worked diligently to find medical care for a resident who was in need of emotional health assistance. In another, a navigator made arrangements to pick up food at a local food pantry for a patient who was unable to leave their home due to isolation protocols.

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About OSF HealthCare

OSF HealthCare is an integrated health system owned and operated by The Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis, headquartered in Peoria, Illinois. OSF HealthCare employs more than 23,600 Mission Partners in 147 locations, including 14 hospitals – 10 acute care, four critical access – with 2,097 licensed beds, and two colleges of nursing throughout Illinois and Michigan. The OSF HealthCare physician network employs more than 1,500 primary care, specialist and advanced practice providers. OSF HealthCare, through OSF Home Care Services, operates an extensive network of home health and hospice services. It also owns Pointcore, Inc., comprised of health care-related businesses; OSF HealthCare Foundation, the philanthropic arm for the organization; and OSF Ventures, which provides investment capital for promising health care innovation startups. More at <https://www.osfhealthcare.org>.

About OSF OnCall

Peoria, Illinois-based OSF HealthCare offers unique, full-scale digital health and convenient care options under the umbrella of [OSF OnCall](#). Providing an array of services anytime, anywhere, OSF OnCall includes digital platforms and software to connect people with care 24/7 using smart phone apps, video visits and behavioral health tools with live support. [OSF OnCall Urgent Care](#) offers in-person and virtual visits for minor injuries and illness; OSF OnCall also represents other at home and hospital-based digital care including remote patient monitoring and remote intensive care. Learn more at www.osfoncall.org