**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Media Contact**

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**Healthcare Partners provide an update after the stay at home order.**

Rawlins County Health Partners support Kansas Governor Laura Kelly’s executive order to stay at home to help mitigate the spread of Coronavirus and better preserve the health and safety of all Kansans.

Currently, Rawlins County has not had a confirmed case of COVID-19. As of Monday, March 30th, Kansas has gone from 82 positive cases and 2 deaths to 368 positive cases and 8 deaths in one week. With the confirmed case in nearby Gove County, Kansas, as well as Yuma and Kit Carson Counties in Colorado, the Rawlins County Health Partners stress the importance of social distancing and staying at home.

Rawlins County Health Center continues to have visitor restrictions. Rawlins Clinic – Atwood and its specialty providers are working on tele-med opportunities for home appointments. Rawlins County Health Center has worked with building engineers to develop temporary HVAC solutions to use in the regular inpatient rooms to go along with the one negative pressure isolation room. Rawlins County Health Center has three ventilators which could be used to treat COVID-19 patients. Federal and state agencies predict an increase in critical patients if COVID-19 enters our community. Rawlins County Health Center’s trained staff is ready to provide safe, quality care to all patients. If you have any questions regarding hospital preparations, please call Suzanna Koel at 626-3211 ext. 220.

Rawlins County Public Health Department will be available for scheduled appointments at this time. They are available during regular office hours at 626-3968 and after hours at 626-6697.

Rawlins County EMS has plans in place to protect its staff and avoid the spread of COVID-19 if they encounter it.

Rawlins County Dental Clinic is committed to the safety of its staff and patients and is following the most recent mandates by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. They will be extending the suspension of non-essential dental appointments through April 17th. Office staff will be contacting those with upcoming appointments. They are working with a limited staff to help keep emergencies out of area emergency rooms. If you have any questions, concerns, or think you may be experiencing a dental emergency, please call 785-626-8290.

Currier Drug, Inc is open regular hours offering curbside service, local delivery, and mail service for prescription medications and over-the-counter needs. For curbside service, customers can pick up items from the basket at the north or west door. Credit or debit card payment is preferred at the time of your phone order. For any questions, please call Currier Drug at 626-3214.

Atwood Good Samaritan Society continues with visitor restrictions and appreciates the understanding of the residents and their families, with a HUGE thank you to all of their dedicated staff.

The Tri-County Emergency Operation Command, which consists of Cheyenne, Sherman, and Rawlins counties, continues with mitigation preparedness and the recovery planning process.

Atwood Public Library is closed. Please contact Grace Kastens for unemployment assistance at atwoodlibrary@atwoodtv.net or Cathy Domsch for disaster assistance for small businesses economically impacted by COVID-19 at cathy@facilitatingchangetoday.com .

The Rawlins County Health Partners would like to express the importance of staying at home, social distancing, and washing your hands often as well as washing frequently touched surfaces to decrease your exposure to COVID-19 or the transmission of COVID-19 to your loved ones. You can leave your house for essential activities or functions. Essential businesses include hospitals, clinics, grocery stores, gas stations, food service (curbside or delivery), hardware, plumbing, agricultural, utilities, and government offices. Essential activities include caring for a vulnerable person in another location or going outdoors if you abide by social distancing and do not gather with persons outside of your home.

Finally, please be aware of your mental health and reach out and ask for help from others, and above all, please be kind and understanding to each other.