

Today KershawHealth Remains #KCStrong

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Saturday, March 6, marked one year since KershawHealth diagnosed the first COVID-19 patient in our community.

During the early days of the pandemic, emotions were high as we prepared for the unknown. The United States had not had a substantial public health crisis in decades, and at the time, it was believed that COVID-19 presented as a narrow list of symptoms and was spread among travelers.

However, the first cases at KershawHealth – which were among the first cases in South Carolina – did not follow that pattern.

When our care team diagnosed our first patient with COVID-19, we realized that symptoms of the virus can vary among individuals. Our team was also among the first to detect transmission of the virus via community spread. These two fundamentals proved to be critically important to our local response — and in shaping how many other hospitals and communities prepared for and responded to the virus.

We believe that our experience demonstrates the power of our people, the strength of our team and the value of community-centered care. Every day our talented physicians, nurses and health care providers show up to care for our neighbors, families and friends. We know our patients because we live here – we grew up together, our kids attend the same schools, we are members of the same churches and civic organizations. After all, we know and understand the deep-seated, intricate connections that are woven throughout this community.

Over the last year, KershawHealth has continued to be on the forefront of this evolving pandemic. Our response and actions shaped how many other hospitals and communities prepared for and responded to the virus. Early on, we understood the importance of a timely diagnosis to prevent further spread of the virus, so we worked closely with our partners at DHEC to increase access to testing and ensure that anyone who needed a test could get one. We also secured and implemented treatment options to improve outcomes for our patients. Most recently, we are vaccinating our community against COVID-19 as we work to prevent further spread.

This month and as we go forward, join us in remembering the many individuals we lost to the virus, honoring the survivors and celebrating our healthcare heroes. We are grateful for our patients who have trusted us with their care and for our many community partners who have worked alongside and supported our teams during a challenging year. We are proud to be your hometown hospital, today and for generations to come. Follow our Facebook page @KershawHealth to see how our team is stronger today. **We are #KCStrong.**