FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Becky Young, Director of Marketing and Communications
St. Francis Hospital
Frances.young@lifepointhealth.net
706.320.2738

Keona Swindler, Marketing and Communications Coordinator
St. Francis Hospital
Keona.Swindler@lifepointhealth.net
706.320.8323

St. Francis Hospital Announces Visitor Flu Restrictions

COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, January 7, 2020— St. Francis Hospital is implementing visitor restrictions in response to the flu season. Until further notice, visitation is prohibited for children ages twelve and under, and visitors who are ill. Children twelve and under who visit St. Francis Hospital for outpatient testing will be asked to wear a mask while inside the building. Mask, tissues and hand sanitizer are available at the main entrances. All visitors and patients with flu like symptoms who visit the Emergency Room will be asked to wear a mask. Visitation will be restricted until further notice and will most likely end sometime in March 2020. If you are exhibiting flu like symptoms such as fever, cough, sore throat and body aches you will be prohibited from visiting.

To help prevent the spread of the flu, here are some helpful tips:

• Get a flu shot (it takes approximately two weeks for the flu vaccine to start working, but the season typically lasts into the spring.)
• Use a tissue to cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.
• Wash your hands with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing. When soap and water are not available, please use alcohol-based hand sanitizers.
• DO NOT touch your eyes, mouth, or nose.
• Avoid sick people.
• If you are sick with the flu or flu-like symptoms, the Centers for Disease Control recommends that you stay home until you have been 24 hours fever free. If you suspect you have the flu seek medical attention. Keep away from others as much as possible to keep them from getting sick.

St. Francis Hospital appreciates your understanding and support of our efforts to keep our community healthy this flu season. We understand the importance of visitation to our patients and encourage the use of other forms of communication such as a phone call, email, FaceTime or flowers.

###