

# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



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## **BLACK RIVER MEDICAL CENTER HIGH-ACUITY URGENT CARE TO OPEN SUMMER 2019**

POPLAR BLUFF, Mo. – Black River Medical Center will officially join Saint Francis Healthcare System in summer 2019.

As part of this merger, Black River decertifies eight patient beds, and the Emergency Room converts into a high-acuity Urgent Care. The new Urgent Care will offer extended walk-in hours with expanded services seven days a week, no appointment necessary. The medical center will continue to offer a full spectrum of outpatient services, including imaging and radiology.

Saint Francis partners with a variety of insurance providers, accepting Medicare and Medicaid as well as several commercial plans. The complete list, as well as personalized cost estimates, can be found on the Saint Francis website or by calling 573-331-5217, option 2.

As regional healthcare providers, both Saint Francis and Black River are familiar with the practical and economic challenges of practicing medicine in rural areas. Rural populations are often underserved in terms of medical resources; however, by joining forces, Saint Francis and Black River will take a crucial step toward assuring access and improving long-term patient health outcomes in Poplar Bluff and beyond.

Saint Francis Healthcare System is guided by its mission to provide a ministry of healing, wellness, quality and love inspired by faith in Jesus Christ. Founded by Franciscan Sisters in 1875, the priority remains the same: serve all who enter with dignity, compassion and joy. Serving nearly 713,000 people across Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee and Arkansas, the focus is on patients' outcomes, experience and value.

Anchored by Saint Francis Medical Center, a 306-bed tertiary hospital, and supported by nearly 2,800 employees and more than 250 providers in eight communities, the Healthcare System is a driving economic force in the region. Major services include the Cancer Institute, Emergency

and Level III Trauma Center, Family BirthPlace and the regions only Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Heart Hospital, Neurosciences and Orthopedics.

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