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Mercy Medical lays off 71

An additional 34 employees at Nampa hospital face reduced hours

NAMPA — Mercy Medical Center in Nampa announced Monday that 71 employees will be laid off and another 34 will work reduced hours. This decision comes as a result of a significant downturn in patient volumes, rising levels of uninsured workers and family members, declining reimbursements from some payers, bad debt and charity care, hospital officials said.

Affected employees will receive separation packages based on years of service and employment status. Transition assistance will also be provided to impacted employees.

In addition to reductions to its workforce, Mercy plans to reduce expenses by cutting compensation of its senior leaders, sharing positions with sister facilities and aggressively managing other operational expenses.

Mercy Medical Center, one of two hospitals in Canyon County, is a 152-bed acute care hospital that serves the medical needs of the greater Nampa area.

Mercy was founded in 1917 by The Sisters of Mercy and is owned and operated by Catholic Health Initiatives, the second-largest Catholic health system in the United States.

Mercy's medical services are provided at Mercy Medical Center, Mercy North Health Center, Mercy Physician Group, Mercy Hospice and the Mercy Family Birthing Center, all in Nampa.

West Valley Medical Center spokesman John McGee said the Caldwell hospital does not anticipate any layoffs. "Like everyone, we're tightening our belts and watching what we're spending," he said.

Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise announced layoffs for 40 workers last spring, citing similar causes as Mercy for their action. Saint Al's also attributed the layoffs to a rise in the cost of supplies, drugs, and new technologies, and the high cost of contract labor due to a nursing shortage.