



RURAL PARISH CLINIC
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS



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Rural Parish Mobile Medical Clinic to Reopen With Amended Service Offerings and Procedures Amid COVID-19

ST. LOUIS – Following a [temporary suspension of services](#) due to concerns related to COVID-19, the Rural Parish Mobile Medical Clinic (RPC) plans to reopen its two locations in mid-July 2020, with several changes to services and procedures to ensure patient safety and the protection of volunteer staff and parish facilities.

The RPC location at St. Joachim Catholic Church in Cadet, Mo. will reopen on Monday, July 13, and the location in St. Clair, Mo. (at St. Clare Catholic School) will open on Thursday, July 16.

While the RPC will not offer testing nor medical care for COVID-19 patients, the clinic will provide screening, guidance and referrals for those in need of testing and/or treatment for the virus.

Consistent with CDC guidelines and direction from local and regional health officials, the RPC will implement several new procedures and protocols as locations reopen to serve patients in-person, including the following:

- All scheduled patients will be contacted by phone before their visit to verify medical and financial eligibility, and will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms.
- All patients—both scheduled and walk-in—are to arrive for their appointment by car and call the RPC upon arrival, where they will receive triage care by a clinician to evaluate their temperature as well as any symptoms indicative of COVID-19. Patients who have a temperature of over 100.4 Fahrenheit or 38 Celcius, or who have other symptoms of COVID-19, will receive quarantine instructions and referral for testing/care.
- Patients will wait in their vehicles until summoned to their appointment by an RPC staff member following their screening.
- With the exception of a guardian and/or interpreter, guests will not be allowed to accompany patients into the clinic, in order to limit the number of individuals gathered and reduce the risk of virus transmission.
- All exam and treatment rooms will be sanitized before and after each patient visit.
- No more than three (3) patients will be allowed to sit in the clinic at one time.
- Proper social distancing (6 feet between each person) measures will be required by all staff members and patients.
- All staff members will wear a mask during clinic.
- Patients will be given a mask to keep if they do not have one. Gloves and hand sanitizer will be made available to all patients.

In the wake of COVID-19, the RPC has seen an increase in the number of patients seeking care due to increased medical needs since the mobile service was suspended, additional members of the community experiencing unemployment, and the consequent loss of health insurance for many in the areas the RPC serves. While RPC will work to serve as many patients as possible, the ability to accept new patients will be limited.

Due to the increase in demand, walk-in appointments will not be available until July 27 at St. Joachim and July 30 at St. Clare, two weeks after the reopening of each clinic. As the RPC serves mainly as a primary-care facility, clinic leadership encourages those seeking care to make an appointment—and schedule follow-up appointments—ahead of time, including regular check-ups.

Patients may call 1-888-870-9610, or email rpc@archstl.org to make an appointment, or for more information.

Throughout the temporary closure of the RPC since March 25, services for existing patients have continued via telemedicine support, by use of phone communication for medication refills and other needs. These support services will continue for current patients until the clinics reopen in July.

Clinic hours and locations are as follows:

- St. Joachim Parish
10120 Crest Road
Cadet, MO 63630
Hours: Mondays, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- St. Clare Catholic School
165 E Springfield Rd.
St. Clair, MO 63077
Hours: Thursdays, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

The Rural Parish Clinic is a separately incorporated ministry, not operated nor controlled by the Archdiocese of St. Louis. All updates and resources from the Archdiocese of St. Louis regarding COVID-19, including stories from the St. Louis Review, can be found at the following website: archstl.org/coronavirus.

Please direct questions to communications@archstl.org.

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