

April 15, 2020**Immediate Release****Contact:** JoAnn Cavanaugh, Director Public Relations**Office:** (716) 706-2061 | **Cell:** (716) 228-4886 | **Email:** jcav@chsbuffalo.org

Catholic Health Expedites Launch of Telehealth Virtual Medical Visits

Health System will pilot program among its 11,000 healthcare plan members before rolling out to individuals and families across Western New York later this year



To create a more comfortable and convenient care experience, Catholic Health has partnered with Teladoc® to launch a telehealth pilot program this week for its associates and their eligible family members covered by the system's health insurance plan. Catholic Health accelerated the program launch in response to the urgent need for social distancing and self-isolation across the region.

CH Care OnDemand enables the health plan's more than 11,000 members to connect 24/7, via their computer, smartphone or tablet, with doctors, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners from Catholic Health and Catholic Medical Partners; as well as Teladoc's nationwide network. Following the pilot period, Catholic Health plans to expand the program to individuals and families throughout WNY.

"The most valuable resource we have at Catholic Health is our caregivers," President and CEO Mark Sullivan said. "We're excited to provide them with a more convenient way to access healthcare for themselves and their families as we continue to find innovative ways to improve the health of our entire community."

With a click or call, **CH Care OnDemand** virtually connects patients to a medical provider, saving busy families, working adults or on-the-go millennials valuable time, while supporting current Coronavirus reduction efforts. Providers can diagnose minor medical ailments, discuss treatment options and prescribe medications for a variety of adult or pediatric non-emergent conditions, such as a cold, sore throat, ear infection, bronchitis, pink eye, heartburn, allergies, and more – all without the need for an in-person visit.

Catholic Health plans to offer **CH Care OnDemand** to the Western New York community in the next several months. "Virtual care is the future of healthcare," Sullivan added. "CH Care OnDemand will offer a new kind of healthcare experience with all the quality our patients have come to expect, along with greater convenience and value."