### All Three Southcoast Health Hospitals Recognized for Advanced Stroke Care

Charlton Memorial, St. Luke's and Tobey Hospitals all earned recognition with the American Heart Association's Get with the Guidelines 2022 Awards, officials announced today.

St. Luke's and Tobey were named recipients of the Get with The Guidelines-Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award with Target: Stroke Honor Roll Elite, while Charlton Memorial earned Silver Plus Quality Achievement Award with Target: Stroke Honor Roll Elite designation.

"We are honored to be recognized by the American Heart Association, verifying our commitment to providing excellent stroke care in the region," said Ray Kruger, MD, President and CEO of Southcoast Health. "I would also like to thank the outstanding clinical teams at all three Southcoast Health hospitals for their work toward achieving these remarkable goals."

Hospitals receiving the Get with the Guidelines Gold Plus Achievement Award have reached a goal of treating patients with an 85 percent or higher compliance to core standard levels of care as outlined by the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association for 2 consecutive calendar years. In addition, these hospitals have demonstrated 75 percent compliance (four out of ten heart failure quality measures or four out of seven stroke quality measures) during the 12-month period.

Further displaying exceptional care, St. Luke's Hospital and Tobey Hospital earned recognition from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health with awards from the Paul Coverdell Stroke Systems of Care Collaborative. Both hospitals earned the Modified Rankin Scale Award, reflecting documentation of the Modified Rankin Scale at discharge for at least 95 percent of admitted stroke patients. St. Luke's was additionally recognized for Achieving Door to CT award for completing door to CT processes in less than or equal to 25 minutes from arrival for at least 75 percent of stroke patients.

"When someone experiences a stroke, proving treatment quickly is critical for optimal patient outcomes," said Daniel Sacchetti, DO, Stroke Director at Southcoast Health. "Receiving these significant awards demonstrates Southcoast Health's commitment to delivering high-quality stroke care to our patients close to home. I am tremendously proud of the entire Southcoast team of physicians, providers, nurses and staff who provide top-notch stroke care every day at our hospitals."

According to the CDC, stroke is a leading cause of death and adult disability in the United States. Learning the warning signs and symptoms of a stroke can help individuals identify if someone is experiencing a stroke and get them the medical attention they need in an emergency.

To learn more about stroke care at Southcoast Health, please visit Stroke Care Services MA | Southcoast Health.

## Southcoast Health Announces Dr. Christian Pope as New

# Chief of Obstetrics Gynecology

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Southcoast Health announced today that the not-for-profit community health system has named Christian S. Pope, DO, FACOG Chief of Obstetrics & Gynecology.

A long-standing medical staff member at St. Luke's Hospital, Dr. Pope specializes in providing high-quality women's health care with clinical interests in medical complications of pregnancy, along with teaching and education in the field.

"For the past 19 years, I have had the opportunity of serving the community at St. Luke's," Dr. Pope said. "Since graduating from residency, I have established a large community of patients and am now helping care for the next generation. I've been able to successfully do this with the collaboration of my colleagues, nurses and staff alike. While continuing medical care, I am honored to be given the privilege to be the Chief of Obstetrics & Gynecology for Southcoast Health, where I plan to continue our organization's mission and commitment to providing excellent comprehensive women's health care."

Dr. Pope earned his medical degree from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. Following his medical internship at Eastern Maine Medical Center, he completed his medical education with residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, Mass., through Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston.

"We are delighted to announce Dr. Pope's new role at Southcoast Health," said Ray Kruger, MD, FACS, President and CEO of Southcoast Health. "With his clinical expertise, experience and leadership, we believe Dr. Pope will help Southcoast Health continue to advance our Obstetrics & Gynecology services and continue to provide exceptional care to patients in our region."

In addition to his role at Southcoast Health, Dr. Pope serves on the Faculty at Brown University School of Medicine, where he teaches at the Women and Infant's Hospital in Providence, RI as an Assistant Clinical Professor of Obstetrics & Gynecology.

Dr. Pope has authored articles in notable peer-reviewed journals and books. He serves as an editorial reviewer for the Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology and is board certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology, while also serving as a Fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

He is also a contributing member in several organizations and societies such as The American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, American Society of Reproductive Medicine, The Massachusetts Medical Society and The Society of Critical Care Medicine.

To learn more about Obstetrics & Gynecology at Southcoast Health, please visit Southcoast Health Obstetrics & Gynecology.

## Kraft Announces Recall of Capri Sun "Wild Cherry" Flavor Due To Contamination

Kraft Heinz is announcing a voluntary recall of approximately 5,760 cases of Capri Sun Wild Cherry Flavored Juice Drink Blend beverages. The voluntary recall comes after diluted cleaning solution, which is used on food processing equipment, was inadvertently introduced into a production line at one of the factories. Only the Wild Cherry flavored Capri Sun products with the case/package information below are affected.

The "Best When Used By" date on the products is June 25, 2023. The issue was discovered after Kraft Heinz received several consumer complaints about the taste of the affected product. The Company is actively working with retail partners and distributors to remove potentially impacted product from circulation.

Consumers who purchased these items should not consume the product and can return it to the store where it was purchased. Consumers can contact Kraft Heinz from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday, at 1-800-280-8252 to see if a product is part of the recall and to receive reimbursement.

Product	Name of	Packaging	Manufacturer	Manufacturer	Carton UPC	Case
Size	Product	Description	Code on Pouch	Code on Carton		UPC
6.6 FL OZ	Capri Sun Wild Cherry Flavored Juice Drink Blend	Individual foil pouches packed in paperboard cartons. <b>Note:</b> Cases shipped to retailers include 4 cartons that are shrink- wrapped together. Product is sold by the carton at retail.	25JUN2023 WXX LYY #### Note: #### would be between 0733-0900 for product affected by this issue. XX may be 01, 02, 03, 04, 09, or 10. YY may be 01 through 12.	25JUN2023 WXX #### CT1404. <b>Note:</b> #### would be between 0733-1000 for product affected by this issue. XX may be 01, 02, or 03.	0 8768400100 4	87684 00409 00

#### Southcoast Hospitals Earn U.S. News Recognition in Massachusetts and Rhode Island

The U.S. News and World Report announced Tuesday, July 26, that Southcoast Hospitals Group — which includes Charlton Memorial, St. Luke's and Tobey — is ranked #12 on its list of Best Hospitals in Massachusetts and #2 in the Providence Metro Area.

The annual Best Hospitals rankings and ratings, now in their 33rd year, are designed to assist patients and their doctors in making informed decisions about where to receive quality care for challenging health conditions or elective procedures.

"Congratulations to everyone who helped make this possible! Earning a spot on this list is a major accomplishment, and this recognition represents the outstanding dedication, clinical expertise and compassion you bring to Southcoast each day," said Ray Kruger, MD, President and CEO of Southcoast Health, in an internal letter. "Thank you for all that you do for our patients and community."

Nationwide, 493 hospitals were identified as Best Regional Hospitals compared with 531 last year. Southcoast Hospitals Group is one of just 13 out of 105 hospitals in Massachusetts to make the list.

For the 2022-2023 rankings and ratings, U.S. News evaluated more than 4,500 hospitals across 15 specialties and 20 procedures and conditions. In the 15 specialties, 164

hospitals were ranked in at least one specialty. State and metro area rankings reflect the highest performing hospitals in the area across multiple areas of care.

Southcoast Hospitals Group ranked as a high-performing system for seven procedures and conditions:

- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
- · Colon cancer surgery
- Diabetes
- Heart attack
- Heart failure
- Kidney failure
- Stroke

U.S. News evaluated each hospital's performance using a variety of measures such as survival rates, complication rates, patient experience and level of nursing care. The Best Hospitals methodology factors in data from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, American Hospital Association, professional organizations and medical specialists.

For more information, visit the U.S. News & World Report Best Hospitals.

# Southcoast Health Announces New Physician in Chief of Surgical Services

Dennis LaRock, MD, has accepted the position of Physician in Chief of Surgical Services at Southcoast Health, officials announced this week. In this role, Dr. LaRock will oversee the surgical departments of the Brain and Spine Center, Ear Nose and Throat services, General Surgery, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Orthopedics, Plastics, Thoracic Surgery, Trauma and Urology at Southcoast Health.

"Dr. LaRock brings extensive experience managing private practices and a strong dedication to working within the South Coast region, including over 24 years of clinical experience at Southcoast Health," said Dr. Ray Kruger, President and Chief Executive Officer of Southcoast Health in an internal letter.

"Serving in various leadership positions throughout his tenure, Dr. LaRock has continuously demonstrated an outstanding commitment to our patients, staff and community. With his leadership, I am confident that each of our surgical specialties, and the Surgery Care Center overall, will be well positioned for growth and clinical advancement."

Dr. LaRock will remain clinically active with outpatient offices in Fairhaven and Fall River, and will continue performing surgical cases in Southcoast Hospital Group (SHG) facilities. In addition, Dr. LaRock will continue to co-manage the Southcoast Provider Group (SPG) Urology practice, along with Dr. John Carroll.

"I am honored to accept this new position at Southcoast Health and continue serving the South Coast region," said Dr. LaRock, Physician in Chief of Surgical Services at Southcoast Health. "In this role, I am excited to continue working to advance Southcoast Health services in support of our mission to provide exceptional care, close to home, for all members of the community."

Dr. LaRock is board certified in adult and pediatric urology and is a Diplomat of the American Board of Urology. He currently sees patients at the Southcoast Health outpatient offices in Fairhaven and Fall River, performing surgical cases in SHG facilities.

To learn more about Dr. LaRock please click here.

# Massachusetts Public Health Officials Confirm 10 New Monkeypox Cases

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) today announced 10 additional cases of monkeypox in adult males within the past seven days, bringing the total number of monkeypox cases in the Commonwealth to 31 Massachusetts residents since the state's first case was announced May 18. The 10 cases announced today had their diagnoses between June 30 and July 6 after testing was completed by the State Public Health Laboratory in Jamaica Plain. DPH is working with local health officials, the patients, and healthcare providers to identify individuals who may have been in contact with the patients while they were infectious. Individuals with monkeypox are advised to isolate and avoid contact with others until they are no longer infectious. DPH provides public updates on monkeypox in Massachusetts on a weekly basis each Thursday.

During the week of June 27th, DPH received notice from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that Massachusetts is one of 10 U.S. jurisdictions eligible to receive an initial allocation of JYNNEOS vaccine against monkeypox. DPH received its allocation of 2,004 doses on July 5th, and immediately distributed vaccine to four health care providers for administration starting yesterday, July 6th. Due to extremely limited national availability of vaccine, the JYNNEOS vaccine in Massachusetts remains limited at this time. Vaccination is available to individuals who meet the CDC's eligibility criteria and who live or work in Massachusetts. Vaccine is prioritized for individuals at greatest risk of exposure to someone with monkeypox. If an individual believes they qualify for monkeypox vaccine, they should contact their healthcare provider. Healthcare providers are responsible for evaluating their patient to ensure that they meet eligibility requirements prior to referring patients for vaccination.

More information on monkeypox vaccination in Massachusetts, including eligibility can be found here.

Current data from CDC indicate that there have been 605 cases of monkeypox virus this year in US residents. Regularly updated case counts can be obtained on the CDC's website: 2022 U.S. Map and Case Count. There have been no deaths in the US or globally related to this outbreak and patients generally recover fully in 2-4 weeks. Although many of the early cases were associated with international travel, recent cases are not. Gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men make up a large proportion of the cases identified to date. However, the risk is not limited to the LGBTQ community, and anyone who has been in close contact with someone who has monkeypox is at risk.

While the virus does not spread easily between people, people can spread the infection once they develop symptoms. Transmission occurs through direct contact with body fluids and monkeypox sores, by touching items that have been contaminated with fluids or sores (clothing, bedding, etc.), or less commonly, through respiratory droplets following prolonged face-to-face contact. In many of the recent cases, the locations of the rash lesions suggest transmission during sexual contact.

Examples where monkeypox can spread and where it does not:

Monkeypox can spread through:

Direct skin-to-skin contact with rash lesions.
 Sexual/intimate contact, including kissing while a person is infected.

 Living in a house and sharing a bed with someone. Sharing towels or unwashed clothing.

Respiratory secretions through face-to-face interactions (the type that mainly happen when living with someone or caring for someone who has monkeypox).

Monkeypox does not spread through:

 Casual conversations. Walking by someone with monkeypox in a grocery store, for instance. Touching items like doorknobs.

Clinicians are asked to be alert to the possibility of monkeypox virus infection in individuals who have rash illnesses consistent with monkeypox. Early symptoms of monkeypox can include fever, headache, sore throat, and swollen lymph nodes, but rash may be the first symptom. Rash lesions start flat, become raised, fill with clear fluid (vesicles), and then become pustules (filled with pus). A person with monkeypox can have many lesions or only a few. Learn more about how to recognize monkeypox.

Actions for people to consider if they want to reduce their risk from monkeypox include:

 Avoiding large gatherings like raves and dance parties where you may have lots of close body contact with others

– Asking any partner, especially new partners whose health status and recent travel history you are not familiar with, if they have any symptoms of monkeypox

 Staying informed by reading information available on the DPH and CDC websites.

As the CDC advises, if you believe you may have monkeypox, you should contact your health care provider. If you need to leave your home, wear a mask and cover your rash or lesions when around others. Those who live with or care for someone who may have monkeypox should wear a mask and disposable gloves if they need to have any direct contact with lesions and when handling any clothes or bedding if the person cannot do it themselves. They should also wash their hands regularly, especially after contact with the person who is infected or with their clothes, bed sheets, towels, and other items or surfaces they may have touched.

Clinicians should consult with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health at 617-983-6800 to determine if testing is indicated. Consultation is required before submitting specimens.

For more information about this virus, visit www.mass.gov/monkeypox and www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox.

#### Southcoast Health nurse to retire after 50 years of service

Lois Wilding, RN, will cap off a nursing career of more than 50 years when she retires from Southcoast Health this weekend.

Known throughout the not-for-profit community health system for her classic headwear – a nursing cap earned when she graduated from Truesdale Hospital School of Nursing in 1972 – the Fall River resident will work her final shift at what is now Charlton Memorial Hospital on Saturday.



"I have had a wonderful nursing career," Wilding said. "God has given me good health to continue my passion for 50 years."

Wilding has worked on various units at Charlton Memorial, including medical/surgical and pulmonary. She has served as a nursing supervisor since 2007, first during evenings and then full-time. She has also held positions at the Sarah S. Brayton Nursing Center and in the practice of Southcoast Health Primary Care Provider Dr. Ronald Schwartz, along with stints in home care and school nursing.

"Few people in any profession can say they have dedicated their entire career to one community, and for a nurse, the achievement is even more impressive," said Dr. Ray Kruger, President and CEO of Southcoast Health. "Southcoast is fortunate to have thousands of outstanding nurses whose skill, talent and compassion place them firmly at the top of their field, and Lois has exemplified this. We will miss her, but we are grateful for her lifelong contributions and wish her all of the best." Wilding is famous among her colleagues for sharing inspiring stories and memories that are teachable moments, and she still keeps in touch with many of her patients and their loved ones, said George Barth, RN, Southcoast Health Associate Chief Nursing Officer and Site Administrator at Charlton Memorial.

"Lois has touched the lives of many staff and patients throughout her career," Barth said. "Her mentoring and advocacy have been a major contributor to the profession of nursing. Lois's dedication to Southcoast Health will be remembered forever."

# Southcoast Health Welcomes Renowned Cardiologist to the Heart and Vascular Center

Southcoast Health announced today that cardiologist Bruce Brown, MD FACC, officially joined the not-for-profit community health system this month. Board certified in internal medicine and cardiovascular disease, he is now practicing at the Southcoast Health Rosebrook location in Wareham while continuing to provide inpatient consultative service at Tobey Hospital.

"The promise of Southcoast Health has always been to deliver exceptional personalized care," Dr. Bruce Brown said. "I am honored to be a part of Southcoast, where the health system has committed to providing the advanced cardiovascular care people in our region deserve close to home."

Practicing in southeastern Massachusetts for over 30 years, Dr. Brown is a fellow of the American College of Cardiology. His clinical interests include non-invasive cardiac testing, general outpatient and inpatient cardiology, cardiac rhythm management, congestive heart failure management, preventative cardiology and cardiac wellness.

Moving to the South Coast region in 1991 and starting the first cardiology practice in Wareham, Dr. Brown has maintained a strong connection to the community.

"My philosophy of care is that a physician does not just treat patients but that they become an integral part of the community providing the same level of service that people of the region could expect in a larger city," he said.

Dr. Brown earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Biochemistry from New York University and his Doctor of Medicine degree with honors from the State University of New York Health Sciences Center at Brooklyn, Down Medical School, where he also completed his internship in Internal Medicine. He then went on to complete his Internal Medicine residency at the State University of New York, in Brooklyn, NY, and later served as Chief Medical Resident at Monmouth Medical Center in Long Branch, NJ.

Following his residency, Dr. Brown completed his Cardiology fellowship at the Likoff Cardiovascular Institute Hahnemann University Medical Center in Philadelphia, PA. Here, he received the Excellence in Clinical Teaching Award.

"We are delighted to welcome Dr. Brown to Southcoast Health," said Dr. Peter Cohn, Physician in Chief of the Cardiovascular Care Center at Southcoast Health. "Dr. Brown, while in private practice, has provided exceptional cardiac care to the Wareham community for a number of years. We are very excited that he has joined our team of advanced cardiologists. He will now have the resources at hand to deliver the most up-to-date cardiac care to both his established patients as well as those new to his practice at Southcoast" To learn more about the Heart and Vascular Center at Southcoast Health please visit www.southcoast.org/services/cardio-heart-vascular.

# Massachusetts Public Health Officials Confirm One Additional Case of Monkeypox

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) today announced an additional case of monkeypox in an adult male, the fourth case in the past month. Initial testing was completed late Monday at the State Public Health Laboratory in Jamaica Plain; confirmatory testing will be done at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). DPH is working with local health officials, the patient, and the healthcare providers to identify individuals who may have been in contact with the patient while he was infectious. The case is currently isolating to prevent spread to others.

Current data from CDC indicates that there have been 65 cases of monkeypox virus this year in US residents; this includes the first identified case in Massachusetts which was confirmed on May 18. There have been no deaths in the US or globally related to this outbreak and patients generally recover fully in 2-4 weeks. Although many of the early cases were associated with international travel, recent cases are not. Gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men make up a large proportion of the cases identified to date. However, the risk is not limited to the LGBT community, and anyone who has been in close contact with someone who has monkeypox is at risk. While the virus does not spread easily between people, people can spread the infection once they develop symptoms. Transmission occurs through direct contact with body fluids and monkeypox sores, by touching items that have been contaminated with fluids or sores (clothing, bedding, etc.), or less commonly, through respiratory droplets following prolonged face-to-face contact. In many of the recent cases, the locations of the rash lesions suggest transmission during sexual contact. Examples where monkeypox can spread and where it does not:

Monkeypox can spread through:

 Direct skin-skin contact with rash lesions. Sexual/intimate contact, including kissing while a person is infected.

 Living in a house and sharing a bed with someone. Sharing towels or unwashed clothing.

– Respiratory secretions through face-to-face interactions (the type that mainly happen when living with someone or caring for someone who has monkeypox).

Monkeypox does not spread through:

 Casual conversations. Walking by someone with monkeypox in a grocery store. Touching items like doorknobs.

Clinicians are asked to be alert to the possibility of monkeypox virus infection in individuals who have rash illnesses consistent with monkeypox. Early symptoms of monkeypox can include fever, headache, sore throat, and swollen lymph nodes, but rash may be the first symptom. Rash lesions start flat, become raised, fill with clear fluid (vesicles), and then become pustules (filled with pus). A person with monkeypox can have many lesions or may have only a few. More complete information about how to recognize monkeypox is available here.

"While we are in this current outbreak, and even though monkeypox remains rare, people are encouraged to be mindful of their health," said DPH State Epidemiologist Dr. Catherine Brown. "If you have any symptoms, and especially if you have a rash, it is best to avoid prolonged physical contact with anyone until you are well."

Other things you can consider to help reduce the risk from monkeypox include:

 Avoid large gatherings like raves and dance parties where you may have lots of close body contact with others

 Ask any partner, especially new partners whose health status and recent travel history you are not familiar with, if they have any symptoms of monkeypox

 Stay informed by reading information available on the DPH and CDC websites

As the CDC advises, if you believe you may have monkeypox, you should contact your health care provider. If you need to leave your home, wear a mask and cover your rash or lesions when around others. Those who live with or care for someone who may have monkeypox should wear a mask and disposable gloves if they need to have any direct contact with lesions and when handling any clothes or bedding if the person cannot do it themselves. They should also wash their hands regularly, especially after contact with the person who is infected or with their clothes, bed sheets, towels and other items or surfaces they may have touched.

Clinicians should consult with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health at 617-983-6800 to determine if testing is indicated. Consultation is required before submitting specimens.

For more information about this virus, visit https://www.mass.gov/monkeypox and https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox.

# Massachusetts Public Health Officials Confirm Two Additional Cases of Monkeypox

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) today announced two cases of monkeypox in two adult men who had close contact with one another. Initial testing was completed late Saturday at the State Public Health Laboratory in Jamaica Plain; confirmatory testing will be done at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Neither case reports a known link to the first case identified in Massachusetts. The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) will lead the case investigations and work with DPH, the patients, and their healthcare providers to identify individuals who may have been in contact with the patients while they were infectious. The cases are currently isolating to prevent spread to others.

Current data from CDC indicates that there have been 49 cases of monkeypox virus this year in US residents; this includes the first identified case in Massachusetts which was confirmed on May 18. There have been no deaths in the US or globally related to this outbreak and patients generally recover fully in 2-4 weeks. Although many of the early cases were associated with international travel, recent cases are not. Gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men make up a large proportion of the cases identified to date. However, anyone who has been in close contact with someone who has monkeypox is at risk. While the virus does not spread easily between people, people can spread the infection once they develop symptoms. Transmission occurs through direct contact with body fluids and monkeypox sores, by touching items that have been contaminated with fluids or sores (clothing, bedding, etc.), or less commonly, through respiratory droplets following prolonged face-to-face contact.

Clinicians are asked to be alert to the possibility of monkeypox virus infection in individuals who have rash illnesses consistent with monkeypox. Early symptoms of monkeypox can include fever, headache, sore throat, and swollen lymph nodes, but rash may be the first symptom. Rash lesions start flat, become raised, fill with clear fluid (vesicles), and then become pustules (filled with pus). A person with monkeypox can have many lesions or may have only a few. More complete information about how to recognize monkeypox is available here.

"Although monkeypox infections remain rare, and none of the close contacts from Massachusetts' first case developed monkeypox during their monitoring period, the CDC is reporting that cases continue to rise across the United States," said DPH State Epidemiologist Dr. Catherine Brown. "It is very important to be aware of the symptoms of monkeypox and to be vigilant. Individuals with concerning rashes should contact their healthcare provider."

As the CDC advises, if you believe you may have monkeypox, you should contact your health care provider. If you need to leave your home, wear a mask and cover your rash or lesions when around others. Those who live with or care for someone who may have monkeypox should wear a mask and disposable gloves if they need to have any direct contact with lesions and when handling any clothes or bedding if the person cannot do it themselves. They should also wash their hands regularly, especially after contact with the person who is infected or with their clothes, bed sheets, towels and other items or surfaces they may have touched.

Clinicians should consult with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health at 617-983-6800 to determine if testing is indicated. Consultation is required before submitting specimens.

For more information about this virus, visit

https://www.mass.gov/monkeypox
https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox.