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A Joint Message from the Leadership of UA Health Sciences and Banner - University Medicine

June 24, 2019

You may be aware of recent media coverage on the issue of providing care for migrant refugees in a safe environment, and the challenges of doing so compassionately while remaining compliant with the law. Included in this coverage were the thoughts and opinions of individuals affiliated with the University of Arizona Health Sciences and Banner Health. We are writing to provide an update on the progress that is being made surrounding this issue, and to touch on the influence we have as respected members of an academic medical community.

First and foremost, we appreciate the feedback we have heard from our care providers and team members, and we are offering additional guidance for these complex situations. We also have assembled a UAHS-Banner Health working group that will seek additional input to help find solutions that address all aspects of this issue. Recently, members of the working group met with Border Patrol officials to express our concerns. They were receptive and are collaborating with us to identify solutions that enhance patient privacy while ensuring a safe environment. In the coming weeks, we will be sharing updates in regular department and group meetings on the continued progress we are making.

Each of us, as a member of our campus and health care community, should remember that the public generally views us as part of UAHS-Banner Health. In that light, before interacting with the media or producing content intended for public consumption, we should consider the impact it may have on our joint efforts to resolve this complex issue in the most productive way. We all are guaranteed the right of free expression as citizens and members of an academic institution, but we also should remain aware of any University of Arizona or Banner Health policies that guide our actions as employees.

Our collective efforts in education, research and clinical care benefit the community and our patients in ways that are unique to the mission of an academic medical center. We should all be proud of the work we are doing to advance science and medicine, and how we are working together to deliver on the promise of providing innovative, compassionate care to everyone who needs it.

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