

# Salem Health CEO delivers 'dire and grim' update

By **JOSEPH CAPPELLETTI**  
Of the *Keizertimes*

Cheryl Nester Wolfe, Salem Health CEO, presented a stark view inside Salem Hospital as the COVID surge continues to swamp the state's hospitals.

"You see a young mother who's unvaccinated, who's pregnant, and you do a C-section on the young mother to save the baby," Wolfe said Thursday,

Sept. 2. "And we know the mother isn't going to make it. That's the reality of what's happening."

Wolfe described the circumstances during a Thursday meeting hosted by the Salem Area Chamber of Commerce.

A daily update from Salem Health on Sept. 7 showed of the 494 licensed beds in the hospital, only 20 remain. Wolfe said what was happening inside the

hospital was "dire and grim."

"The reality is we are completely full. We're canceling surgeries," Wolfe said.

"And we aren't canceling surgeries that aren't necessary, we're canceling surgeries because we can't accommodate an ICU bed for the patient."

On the morning of Wolfe's update, the hospital had 21 COVID patients in the 30 bed ICU. Of those 21 patients, 16

were on ventilators. Wolfe said the hospital has never experienced anything like this.

"I will tell you quite factually that those 16 aren't going to make it. That's the reality of what we are dealing with," said Wolfe.

As of Sept. 7, there were 23 COVID patients in the ICU with 13 on ventilators.

Wolfe added that the hospital has

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Now a Keizer resident, Veta the Realtor works throughout Marion, Polk and Washington counties.

"I feel real estate allows me to follow my passion of giving and volunteering," she said. She is a board member of the Re/Max Foundation and donates a portion of each commission.

Veta the Realtor believes the quality in service starts with honesty. The ability to look someone in the eye and tell them the truth, no matter what may be is key, she said. "I listen to what my client needs are and work hard towards making that happen."

Contact Veta the Realtor at 503-887-3095 and visit her website at [TheresOnlyOneVeta.com](http://TheresOnlyOneVeta.com).

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