This week's message is my personal, but public THANK YOU to all the healthcare workers that I have the privilege to work with at Troy Regional every day, and to those in other provider offices and clinics.

I see you. I see you protecting our patients and each other, giving selflessly and supporting one another. I see you sacrificing so much to save so many. I say Thank You.

I see you holding patients' hands when they open their eyes after weeks of intubation. I see you cheer for grown adults when they take their first breaths and first steps for the second time in their lives. I see you gracefully adopting new protocols and continually innovating for our patients. I see you masking up, advocating for public health measures, and believing in science. I say Thank You.

I see your tired bodies but tireless spirits as you help others all day, every day. I say Thank You.

You are the helpers and the heroes that we look to. I say Thank You.

To our Troy community and the other communities, we serve, help us end the pandemic. COVID-19 vaccines are effective at helping protect against severe disease, hospitalization, and death from variants of the virus that causes COVID-19 currently circulating, including the Delta Variant. Troy Regional is holding vaccine clinics every Friday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., no appointment required and free of charge.

Spread the word, not the virus.

Rick Smith, FACHE Chief Executive Officer Troy Regional Medical Center