

## **Richmond Memorial Hospital closes it's doors for bats**

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Richmond Memorial Hospital in Rockingham has closed its doors temporarily until a colony of bats can be removed. The hospital, operated by Pinehurst-based Firsthealth Of The Carolinas, transported its 14-bed-patients to various hospitals of their choice. Firsthealth has been working with a professional bat removal service to expel the flying mammals, which have been living in the walls. Hospital employees called Richmond County Health Inspectors , who inspected air handling units, patient rooms, common areas and ceiling tiles. Inspectors say there is no evidence of bat droppings inside the hospital and there should be on lingering risk to patients or employees. In the meantime, Firsthealth says it will continue to suspend all services except for patients who present themselves to the emergency department.