



Minnesota Hospital Association

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MHA statement on COVID-19 preparedness and Gov. Tim Walz's updated stay at home order

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Minnesota's hospitals and health systems continue to work tirelessly to care for COVID-19 patients and prepare for a surge of cases and hot spots in our communities. We appreciate that Minnesotans have partnered with us on community mitigation efforts – including staying home – that have slowed the spread of this infection in our communities.

As the governor and state officials work to balance the health and well-being of Minnesotans during this ongoing global pandemic, hospitals and health systems support a cautious and measured approach to increasing contact and activity. Our top priority remains having the spaces, staff and supplies necessary in our hospitals and health systems to support our workforce and continue to provide high-quality care to all of our patients. We urge Minnesotans to continue to practice diligent social distancing in public and to stay at home whenever possible to protect their and their families' health and reduce the spread of infection to vulnerable populations in our state.

Hospitals and health systems also want to ensure that Minnesotans continue to receive needed care to maintain their health. Gov. Walz's March 19 executive order postponing elective surgeries if a delay would not result in harm to the patient provided needed time for a coordinated state effort to acquire necessary supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE) and to build ICU and bed capacity. With the hard work of the state now tracking and reserving PPE to accommodate a surge of patients, a foundation has been set for a thoughtful and methodical resumption of time-sensitive surgeries.

Over the past week, hospitals and health systems provided input to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) on what would need to be in place for elective surgeries to resume across all settings of care, including testing and PPE supplies that can support surgery while appropriately caring for COVID-19 patients and protecting our front-line care teams. We look forward to receiving final MDH guidance for all health systems, ambulatory surgery centers and dentists around resumption of elective surgeries.

Dr. Rahul Koranne
President and CEO
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