



Minnesota Hospital Association

2550 University Ave. W., Suite 350-S
St. Paul, MN 55114-1900

phone: (651) 641-1121; fax: (651) 659-1477
toll-free: (800) 462-5393; www.mnhospitals.org

**Joint statement from Minnesota's hospitals and health systems on stopping the spread of COVID-19
Nov. 12, 2020**

As the physician and nursing leaders of hospitals and health systems throughout Minnesota, we have an important message to share regarding stopping the spread of COVID-19.

Hospitals, health systems and health care providers are watching with growing concern as COVID-19 cases quickly increase in Minnesota, fueled by broad community spread in all parts of the state. Demand for hospital care is increasing in both medical-surgical and intensive care units, and the percentage of beds occupied by patients with COVID-19 is growing.

The high level of community transmission means that our health care heroes – including nurses, doctors, therapists, pharmacists, support services, housekeeping, technicians, advanced practice providers and many more – are contracting COVID-19 as they go about their daily lives in our communities. Reducing and preventing community spread is critical to helping keep our health care heroes healthy and able to care for patients.

For the past many months, hospitals, health systems and the Minnesota Hospital Association have joined with Gov. Tim Walz and the Minnesota Department of Health to urge Minnesotans to do their part to help slow community spread. Simple public health best practices including physically distancing at least 6 feet from others, washing hands frequently and wearing a mask in public can help break the chain of transmission.

Our hospitals and health systems are working to keep our patients, visitors and health care workers safe by requiring staff, patients and visitors to follow public safety protocols, including mask-wearing and screenings upon entry to our facilities. We urge Minnesotans to exercise this same care as they interact in the community.

Minnesotans must do all we can now to reduce the community spread of COVID-19. As we did at the beginning of this pandemic, we each need to do our part and protect our health care heroes, our family members and our communities.

Carol Koeppel-Olsen, RN, Chief Nursing Officer
Abbott Northwestern Hospital
Minneapolis, MN

John Smyrski III, M.D., Vice President Medical Affairs
Abbott Northwestern Hospital
Minneapolis, MN

Mary Beth Larson, RN, Risk & Patient Representative
Manager
Abbott Northwestern Hospital
Minneapolis, MN

Mary L. Olson, M.D.
Access Health Windom | Avera Medical Group Windom
Windom, MN

Molly Clark, Pharm.D., Vice President, Safety and Quality
Allina Health
Minneapolis, MN

Ryan Else, M.D., Vice President, Medical Affairs/Co-
Interim Chief Medical Officer
Allina Health
Minneapolis, MN

John S. Misa, M.D., Co-Interim Chief Medical Officer
Allina Health Group
Minneapolis, MN

Deb Dittberner, M.D., Chief Medical Officer
Alomere Health
Alexandria, MN

Margaret Kalina, RN, Chief Nursing Officer
Alomere Health
Alexandria, MN

Ranita Schmitt, RN, Director of Nursing
Appleton Area Health
Appleton, MN

Swachetan Bajwa, M.D., Chief of Staff
Appleton Area Health
Appleton, MN

Dodie Derynck, RN, Chief Nursing Officer
Avera Marshall Regional Medical Center
Marshall, MN

Steven Meister, M.D., CMO/VP Medical Affairs
Avera Marshall Regional Medical Center
Marshall, MN

Daniel Florey, M.D., Family Physician
Avera Tyler
Tyler, MN

Sarah Griesse, RN, Director of Patient Care Services
Avera Tyler
Tyler, MN

Ed Anderson, M.D., Chief Medical Officer
Bigfork Valley Hospital
Bigfork, MN

Laura Vaneps, RN, Director of Patient Care Services
Bigfork Valley Hospital
Bigfork, MN

Benjamin Robeck, RN, Director of Patient Care Services &
CNO
Buffalo Hospital
Buffalo, MN

Robert Mullaney, M.D., Director of Medical Affairs
Buffalo Hospital
Buffalo, MN

Charles J. Phillips, M.D., Director of Medical Affairs
Cambridge Medical Center
Cambridge, MN

Lori Weaver, RN, BSN, MA, Director of Patient Care, CNO
Cambridge Medical Center
Cambridge, MN

Cindy Firkins Smith, M.D., Chief Executive Officer
Carris Health
Willmar, MN

Kathy Dillon, RN, Vice President, Acute Care/Chief
Nursing Officer
Carris Health
Willmar, MN

Joshua Friese, M.D.
Carris Health - Redwood
Redwood Falls, MN

Kris Garman, RN, Director of Patient Care
Carris Health - Redwood
Redwood Falls, MN

Cindy Smith, M.D., Co-CEO Carris Health
Carris Health - Rice Memorial Hospital
Willmar, MN

Kathy Dillon, RN, Chief Nursing Officer, Carris Rice
Memorial Hospital
Carris Health - Rice Memorial Hospital
Willmar, MN

Patty Frank, MSN, CNO/COO
CCM Health
Montevideo, MN

George Morris, M.D., Physician Vice President,
Performance Excellence
CentraCare
St. Cloud, MN

Renee Eldidy, M.D., Chief Medical Officer
CentraCare - Long Prairie
Long Prairie, MN

Lynn Christian, RN, Division Director, Acute Care Nursing
CentraCare - Monticello
Monticello, MN

Rachel Walz, APRN, Director of Patient Care Services
CentraCare - Paynesville
Paynesville, MN

Patty Roth, RN, Director of Patient Care Services
CentraCare - Sauk Centre
Sauk Centre, MN

Tom Schrup, M.D., Chief Physician Officer & Executive
Vice President
CentraCare - St. Cloud Hospital
St. Cloud, MN

Kristin Coauette, CNE
CHI LakeWood Health
Baudette, MN

Terry Anderson, RN, Vice President of Patient Care
Services
CHI St. Francis Health
Breckenridge, MN

Lana Dirksen, M.D.
CCM Health
Montevideo, MN

Chris Boelter, M.D., Physician Vice President, Medical
Specialties Division, Chairperson of the MHA Surgeries
and Procedures Committee
CentraCare
St. Cloud, MN

Jodi Hillmer, RN, Director of Patient Care Services
CentraCare - Long Prairie
Long Prairie, MN

John Hering, M.D., Administrator and Chief Medical
Officer
CentraCare - Monticello
Monticello, MN

Kurt Habben, M.D., Chief of Staff
CentraCare - Paynesville
Paynesville, MN

Ben Haeg, M.D., Chief of Staff
CentraCare - Sauk Centre
Sauk Centre, MN

Joy Plamann, DNP, Vice President, Acute Division and
Chief Nursing Officer
CentraCare - St. Cloud Hospital
St. Cloud, MN

Justin Quo, M.D., Medical Director
CHI LakeWood Health
Baudette, MN

Andrew Stasko, M.D., Chief of Medical Staff
CHI St. Francis Health
Breckenridge, MN

Carla Zupko, RN, Vice President, Patient Care Services
CHI St. Gabriel's Health
Little Falls, MN

Chris Bell, M.D.
CHI St. Gabriel's Health
Little Falls, MN

Deb Haagenson, RN, Vice President of Patient Care
CHI St. Joseph's Health
Park Rapids, MN

John Lageson, M.D., Chief of Staff
CHI St. Joseph's Health
Park Rapids, MN

Emily Chapman, M.D., Chief Medical Officer, VP Medical
Affairs
Children's Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN

Pam VanHazinga, RN, SVP Patient Care Svcs & CNO
Children's Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN

Charley Kendall, M.D., Incident Commander and Chief of
Staff-Elect
Community Memorial Hospital
Cloquet, MN

Dennis Lennartson, Senior VP of Hospital and Clinical
Operations
Community Memorial Hospital
Cloquet, MN

Nichole Chiabotti, RN, Director of Nursing
Cook Hospital & Care Center
Cook, MN

Robert Westin, M.D., Chief Medical Officer
Cuyuna Regional Medical Center
Crosby, MN

Stacey Weldon, RN, Chief Nursing Officer
Cuyuna Regional Medical Center
Crosby, MN

Amy Elliot, M.D., Director of Medical Affairs
District One Hospital
Faribault, MN

Marylou Hofer, RN, Director of Patient Care Services
District One Hospital
Faribault, MN

Rebecca Holmstrom, RN, Chief Nursing Officer
Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital
Ely, MN

Anne Stephen, M.D., Chief Medical Officer
Essentia Health — East
Duluth, MN

Kari Bergman, APRN, Director of Nursing
Essentia Health-Ada
Ada, MN

Sreejith Gopi, M.D., Medical Director
Essentia Health-Ada
Ada, MN

Kristin Linn, RN, Interim Director of Nursing, Hospital
Clinical Supervisor
Essentia Health-Deer River
Deer River, MN

Steve Pitschka, M.D., ED Medical Director
Essentia Health-Deer River
Deer River, MN

Cheryl White, M.D., Dyad Partner
Essentia Health-Fosston
Fosston, MN

Devra Carlson, RN, Director of Hospital Patient Care
Essentia Health-Fosston
Fosston, MN

Jay Schmidt, M.D., Chief Medical Officer
Essentia Health-Graceville
Graceville, MN

Jill Johnsrud, RN, Director of Nursing
Essentia Health-Graceville
Graceville, MN

Melissa McKay, RN, Regional Chief Nursing Officer
Essentia Health-St. Joseph's Medical Center
Brainerd, MN

Peter Henry, M.D., Chief Medical Officer
Essentia Health-St. Joseph's Medical Center
Brainerd, MN

Molly Pemmaraju, M.D., CMO/Section Chair
Anesthesia/Medical Director Pulmonary Rehab
Essentia Health-Virginia
Virginia, MN

Pete Olson, M.D., Vice President Medical Affairs
Fairview Range
Hibbing, MN

Sherry Burg, Chief Nursing Officer
Fairview Range
Hibbing, MN

Karen Brill, RN, Vice President of Patient Care, Chief
Nursing Officer
Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare
St. Paul, MN

Micah Niermann, M.D., Vice President Clinical Affairs and
Medical Director
Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare
St. Paul, MN

Erin Dahlke, M.D., Chief Medical Officer
Glacial Ridge Health System
Glenwood, MN

Lynn Flesner, RN, Director of Nursing
Glacial Ridge Health System
Glenwood, MN

Kristine Knudten, M.D., Vice President of Medical Affairs
Glencoe Regional Health
Glencoe, MN

Valerie Enter, RN, Chief Nursing Officer
Glencoe Regional Health
Glencoe, MN

Dan Soular, M.D., Vice President of Medical Affairs
Grand Itasca Clinic and Hospital
Grand Rapids, MN

Derek Flier, RN, Nurse Leader
Grand Itasca Clinic and Hospital
Grand Rapids, MN

Denis Spano, M.D., V-CMO
Gundersen St. Elizabeth's Hospital and Clinics
Wabasha, MN

Kimberly Wolter, RN, Chief Nursing Officer
Gundersen St. Elizabeth's Hospital and Clinics
Wabasha, MN

Jennifer Macik, RN, Chief Nursing Officer
HealthPartners Olivia Hospital & Clinic
Olivia, MN

Rob Kemp, M.D., Vice President Medical Affairs
HealthPartners Olivia Hospital & Clinic
Olivia, MN

Dan Hoody, M.D., Interim Chief Medical Officer
Hennepin Healthcare
Minneapolis, MN

Kelly White, RN, Chief Nursing Officer
Hennepin Healthcare
Minneapolis, MN

Brian Pollman, DO, Chief Medical Officer
Hutchinson Health
Hutchinson, MN

Susan Karnitz, RN, Chief Nursing Officer
Hutchinson Health
Hutchinson, MN

Erik Shelstad, M.D., Chief of Staff
Johnson Memorial Health Services
Dawson, MN

Jennifer Erdmann, RN, Director of Nursing
Johnson Memorial Health Services
Dawson, MN

James Sturdy, M.D., Chief Medical Officer
Kittson Healthcare
Hallock, MN

Tawnya Sorenson, RN, Director of Nursing
Kittson Healthcare
Hallock, MN

Josh Overgaard, M.D., Chief Medical Officer
Lake Region Healthcare
Fergus Falls, MN

Roberta Young, Chief Nursing Officer
Lake Region Healthcare
Fergus Falls, MN

Bradley Alm, RN, Director of Nursing
Lake View Hospital
Two Harbors, MN

Shawn McMahon, M.D., Chief Medical Officer
Lake View Hospital
Two Harbors, MN

Andy Dorwart, M.D., Chief Medical Officer
Lakeview Hospital
Stillwater, MN

Robbi Hagelberg, RN, Vice President of Nursing/Chief
Nursing Officer
Lakeview Hospital
Stillwater, MN

Christine Albrecht, M.D., Chief Medical Officer
Lakewood Health System
Staples, MN

Corrine Neisess, RN, Vice President of Nursing
Lakewood Health System
Staples, MN

John Kvasnicka, M.D., President
Fairview Health Medical Group
Minneapolis, MN

Karyn Baum, M.D., Vice President, System Clinical
Operations
M Health Fairview
Minneapolis, MN

Mark Welton, M.D., Chief Medical Officer
M Health Fairview
Minneapolis, MN

Laura Reed, RN, Chief Nursing Executive and President,
Acute Care Hospitals
M Health Fairview University of Minnesota Medical
Center
Minneapolis, MN

Marc Wilkinson, M.D.
Madelia Community Hospital Inc.
Madelia, MN

Megan Gossman, RN, Infection Prevention
Madelia Community Hospital Inc.
Madelia, MN

Brant Hacker, M.D., Family Medicine, Obstetrics
Madison Healthcare Services
Madison, MN

Kim Jibben, RN, Director of Nurses
Madison Healthcare Services
Madison, MN

Jon Larson, M.D.
Mahnomen Health Center
Mahnomen, MN

Ryan Gast, RN, Director of Nursing
Mahnomen Health Center
Mahnomen, MN

Pam Doorenbos, M.D., Vice President, Medical Affairs
Maple Grove Hospital
Maple Grove, MN

Wendy Ulferts, RN, VP Patient Care, CNO
Maple Grove Hospital
Maple Grove, MN

Amy Stolt, MMH, Chief Nursing Officer
Meeker Memorial Hospital & Clinics
Litchfield, MN

Debra Peterson, M.D., Chief Medical Officer
Meeker Memorial Hospital & Clinics
Litchfield, MN

MariBeth Olson, RN, VP of Patient Care/Chief Nursing
Officer
Mercy Hospital
Coon Rapids, MN

Mari Jo Holt, RN, Vice President, Clinical Operations
Mercy Hospital - Unity Campus
Fridley, MN

Jackie Ulseth, RN, Chief Nursing Officer
Mille Lacs Health System
Onamia, MN

Tom Bracken, M.D., VP Medical Affairs
Mille Lacs Health System
Onamia, MN

Helen Perlman, RN, Nurse Executive
Minneapolis VA Health Care System
Minneapolis, MN

Kent Crossley, M.D., Chief of Staff
Minneapolis VA Health Care System
Minneapolis, MN

KyleeAnne Stevens, M.D., Chief Medical Officer
Minnesota Department of Human Services, Direct Care
and Treatment
St. Paul, MN

Roxanne Porter, RN, Nurse Executive Liaison
Minnesota Department of Human Services, Direct Care
and Treatment
St. Paul, MN

Rahul Koranne, M.D., President and CEO
Minnesota Hospital Association
St. Paul, MN

Monica Van Otterloo, RN, Chief Nursing Officer
Murray County Medical Center
Slayton, MN

Steve Snow, M.D., Chief Medical Officer
Murray County Medical Center
Slayton, MN

Andrew Reeves, M.D., Director of Medical Affairs
New Ulm Medical Center
New Ulm, MN

Jennifer Brehmer, RN, Director of Patient Care
New Ulm Medical Center
New Ulm, MN

Carolyn Ogland, M.D., Chief Medical Officer
North Memorial Health
Maple Grove, MN

Fred Andrews, RN, Director of Nursing
North Shore Health
Grand Marais, MN

Kurt Farchmin, M.D.
North Shore Health
Grand Marais, MN

Francis Le Blanc, M.D. Chief Medical Staff
North Valley Health Center
Warren, MN

Sara Kazmierczak, RN, Director of Nursing
North Valley Health Center
Warren, MN

Jeff Meland, M.D., VP, Chief Medical Officer
Northfield Hospital & Clinics
Northfield, MN

Tammy Hayes, RN, Hospital & LTCC Administrator
Northfield Hospital & Clinics
Northfield, MN

Randy Hemann, M.D., Chief Medical Officer
Olmsted Medical Center
Rochester, MN

Sharon Schneller, RN, Chief Nursing Officer
Olmsted Medical Center
Rochester, MN

Allan Ross, M.D., Chief Medical Officer
Ortonville Area Health Services
Ortonville, MN

Nicole Lovgren, RN, Director of Nursing
Ortonville Area Health Services
Ortonville, MN

Sarah Amendola, RN, Director of Patient Care
Services/CNO
Owatonna Hospital
Owatonna, MN

Kasey Paulus, RN, Vice President, Patient Care Services
and Chief Nursing Officer
Park Nicollet Methodist Hospital
St. Louis Park, MN

Nima Desai, M.D., VP, Medical Affairs & CMO
Park Nicollet Methodist Hospital
St. Louis Park, MN

Kailey Witt, M.D., Chief of Medical Staff
Perham Health
Perham, MN

Sonda Tolle, DNP, Vice President Patient Services/CNO
Perham Health
Perham, MN

Jessica Smidt, RN, Director of Nursing
Pipestone County Medical Center
Pipestone, MN

Myles Zephier, DO, Chief of Staff
Pipestone County Medical Center
Pipestone, MN

Alycia Stotesbery-Athey, RN, Director of Nursing
Prairie Ridge Hospital and Health Services
Elbow Lake, MN

Dustin Sperr, M.D., Chief of Staff - Trauma Services
Prairie Ridge Hospital and Health Services
Elbow Lake, MN

Mandy Dageford, RN, Chief Nursing Officer
PrairieCare Brooklyn Park
Brooklyn Park, MN

Tom Joseph, M.D., Chief Medical Officer
PrairieCare Brooklyn Park
Brooklyn Park, MN

Roz Snyder, RN, Chief Nursing Officer
Rainy Lake Medical Center
International Falls, MN

Christy Iverson, RN, Director of Patient Care Services,
CNO
Regina Hospital
Hastings, MN

Melody McKenzie, M.D., Director of Medical Affairs
Regina Hospital
Hastings, MN

Bret Haake, M.D, Vice President Medical Affairs
Regions Hospital
St. Paul, MN

Chris Boese, RN, VP, Patient Care Services/CNO
Regions Hospital
St. Paul, MN

Elaine Arion, RN, Vice President, Patient Care Services
and CNO
Ridgeview Medical Center
Waconia, MN

Matt Herold, M.D., Vice President Medical Affairs
Ridgeview Medical Center
Waconia, MN

Paula Meskan, CNO, Interim CEO
River's Edge Hospital & Clinic
St. Peter, MN

April Grunhovd, RN, VP of Patient Care Services/Chief
Nursing Officer
RiverView Health
Crookston, MN

Colin Fennell, M.D., Chief Medical Officer
RiverView Health
Crookston, MN

Carol Velasquez, RN, Interim Chief Nursing Officer
Riverwood Healthcare Center
Aitkin, MN

David Taylor, M.D., Chief Medical Officer
Riverwood Healthcare Center
Aitkin, MN

Andre Spence, M.D.
Sanford Bagley Medical Center
Bagley, MN

Stephanie McKnight, RN, Administrator
Sanford Bagley Medical Center
Bagley, MN

David Wilcox, M.D., Vice President Medical Officer,
Medical Director of Informatics
Sanford Bemidji Medical Center
Bemidji, MN

Kelly Hagen, RN, Vice President of Nursing & Clinical
Services
Sanford Bemidji Medical Center
Bemidji, MN

Brenda Knutson, RN, Director of Nursing
Sanford Canby Medical Center
Canby, MN

Lindsey Hanson, M.D., Chief Medical Officer
Sanford Canby Medical Center
Canby, MN

Linda Winkelman, RN, Director of Nursing and Clinical
Services
Sanford Jackson Medical Center
Jackson, MN

Ronald Kline, D.O., Physician Leader
Sanford Jackson Medical Center
Jackson, MN

Nicole Woodley, M.D., Chief of Staff
Sanford Luverne Medical Center
Luverne, MN

Sheila Westfield, RN, Director of Nursing
Sanford Luverne Medical Center
Luverne, MN

Janell Hudson, RN, Director, Nursing & Clinical Services
Sanford Thief River Falls Medical Center
Thief River Falls, MN

Mark Yuska, M.D., Chief Medical Officer
Sanford Thief River Falls Medical Center
Thief River Falls, MN

Jeri Schons, RN, Chief Nursing Officer
Sanford Tracy Medical Center
Tracy, MN

Andrew Kopperud, M.D., Chief Medical Officer
Sanford Westbrook Medical Center
Westbrook, MN

Jane Sabinske, RN, Manager of Nursing Operations
Sanford Westbrook Medical Center
Westbrook, MN

Chelsie Falk, RN, Senior Director
Sanford Wheaton Medical Center
Wheaton, MN

Patrick Emery, M.D., Chief Medical Officer
Sanford Wheaton Medical Center
Wheaton, MN

Gwen Post, MAN, RN, Director of Nursing & Clinical
Services
Sanford Worthington Medical Center
Worthington, MN

Justin Kane, M.D., Chief Medical Officer
Sanford Worthington Medical Center
Worthington, MN

Chiloe Kottke, RN, Director of Nursing
Sleepy Eye Medical Center
Sleepy Eye, MN

John Pelzel, M.D.
Sleepy Eye Medical Center
Sleepy Eye, MN

Monte Johnson, M.D., VP Medical Affairs
St. Francis Regional Medical Center
Shakopee, MN

Sue Miller, RN, Vice President of Patient Care Services
St. Francis Regional Medical Center
Shakopee, MN

Nick Van Deelen, M.D., Vice President Medical Affairs
St. Luke's
Duluth, MN

Sue Hamel, RN, Vice President, Chief Nursing Officer
St. Luke's
Duluth, MN

Jason Huikko, M.D., Chief of Staff
Stevens Community Medical Center
Morris, MN

Suzanne Eklund, RN, Quality Director
Stevens Community Medical Center
Morris, MN

Josie Syverson, M.D.
Swift County-Benson Health Services
Benson, MN

Melissa McGinty-Thompson, MA, Chief Nursing and
Clinical Officer, Co-Administrator
Swift County-Benson Health Services
Benson, MN

Benjamin Hess, M.D., Chief Medical Officer
Tri-County Health Care
Wadena, MN

Thomas Pint, RN, Chief Nursing Officer
Tri-County Health Care
Wadena, MN

Alison Peterson, M.D., VP Medical Affairs
United Hospital
St. Paul, MN

Janet Pestle, RN, Vice President, Patient Care
United Hospital
St. Paul, MN

Melissa Storbeck, RN, Chief Nursing Officer
United Hospital District
Blue Earth, MN

Brian Niskanen, M.D., Chief Medical Officer
Welia Health
Mora, MN

Diane Bankers, RN, Chief Nursing Officer
Welia Health
Mora, MN

Michael Donnenwerth, DPM, Chief Medical Officer
Winona Health Services
Winona, MN

Sara Gabrick, RN, COO/CNO
Winona Health Services
Winona, MN