



Minnesota Hospital Association

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June 4, 2020

Via Email: jan.malcolm@state.mn.us

Jan Malcolm, Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Health
625 N. Robert St.
P.O. Box 64975
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975

Dear Commissioner Malcolm:

Thank you for our recent discussion about our request for MDH to publicly support hospitals' and health systems' efforts to keep employees safe and supplied with personal protective equipment (PPE) during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. As we have discussed, we need consistent and supportive messaging from the administration that hospitals are working hard to follow national and state guidance for PPE as we support our staff at the front lines.

Last week, you requested that we gather additional survey information from our large system members regarding their use of PPE during this pandemic.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regularly surveys hospitals and health systems for compliance with safety standards. OSHA has been closely reviewing Minnesota health systems' PPE usage and has **not** found gaps in compliance. Please see more detailed responses from our members below.

Given these OSHA survey results and Minnesota hospitals' and health systems' ongoing adherence to MDH and CDC guidance for conservation and extended use of PPE, we ask that MDH stand with us publicly to support health systems as following the appropriate MDH- and CDC-issued protocols for use of PPE during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Minnesota's hospitals and health systems continue to take actions to keep our health care labor force healthy and available to respond to the increasing numbers of COVID-19 patients who need our care. Over the past four months, hospitals and health systems have been working with their supply chains and with the state emergency management structure to obtain equipment and supplies, including personal protective equipment (PPE). Individual hospitals and health systems are closely monitoring their PPE use for COVID-19 patients under their care now, under a surge or hot spot and the increased use of PPE as additional procedures for other patients increase.

We continue practicing conservation to protect workers and at the same time provide care to all patients. Minnesota's hospitals and health systems are following [MDH](#) and [CDC](#) guidance for the conservation and extended use of PPE.

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Our top priority remains having the spaces, staff and supplies necessary in our hospitals and health systems to continue to provide high-quality care to all of our patients and fully support our care team members. As you can, I hope you will find opportunities in your public comments to share that we are all one team and are doing everything possible to keep our staff safe and protected.

Thank you for your sustained support of these efforts.

Sincerely,

R. Koranne.

Rahul Koranne, M.D., MBA, FACP
President and CEO

MHA member responses:

[Allina Health](#)

[CentraCare](#)

[Children's Minnesota](#)

[Essentia Health](#)

[HealthPartners](#)

[Hennepin Healthcare](#)

[North Memorial Health](#)