



Minnesota Hospital Association

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April 5, 2020

Governor Tim Walz
State of Minnesota
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Ste. 130
Saint Paul, MN 55155-1611

Dear Governor Walz:

Today, Minnesota faces an unprecedented challenge that can only be solved by all of us coming together. On behalf of our health care workforce from all corners of the state, our hospitals and health systems, public and private, pledge to work together with Gov. Tim Walz, Commissioner of Health Jan Malcolm, state agencies and legislators to mobilize an active statewide response to care for Minnesotans in the face of this global crisis.

In communities across Minnesota, urban and rural, small and large, hospitals, health systems and tens of thousands of health care team members are contributing in creative and selfless ways to take care of patients and their communities. We are committed to being here for you. Helping patients is the calling of our nurses, physicians and care team members, and we must do everything to support this mission. We are incredibly grateful for the hard work being done by our front-line care teams both in preparation for and in response to COVID-19.

The measures taken by Gov. Walz to implement social distancing and a stay-at-home order are intended to give our health care organizations valuable time to accelerate our preparations for a surge. We are using this time to work closely with the state to rapidly acquire and replenish supplies and equipment, as well as build out capacity that will be needed to safely take care of affected patients. These are the resources that modeling and the experiences of others across the world show we will need in Minnesota. Every day we are able to prepare will give us the opportunity to secure the space and equipment to save more lives.

We reiterate our support for the #stayhomeMN order from the governor. We all need to take seriously our role in slowing the spread of COVID-19 in our communities. Community mitigation efforts – including staying home -- will help slow the spread of infection and give the health care teams more precious time to prepare.

We thank the governor for issuing his stay-at-home order and for working in close collaboration with the health care systems across Minnesota. Health care leaders from across the state have been in direct contact with the governor and MDH Commissioner Jan Malcolm, providing their input and guidance as our state's leaders make plans. Minnesota is fortunate to have strong leaders who are following the science of COVID-19 and putting the lives of Minnesotans at the center of their decision-making.

Finally, we thank Minnesotans for your willingness to disrupt your daily lives to help curb the spread of COVID-19. Hospital capacity is directly dependent on the intensity, duration and severity of an outbreak, and we and our health care providers ask for your active and continued help to flatten the curve. In line with Governor Walz's direction – stay home, Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Sara Criger, Board Chair, Minnesota Hospital Association
Penny Wheeler, M.D., President & Chief Executive Officer, Allina Health
Carl Vaagenes, Chief Executive Officer, Alomere Health
Lori Andreas, BSN; RN, CEO/Administrator, Appleton Area Health

Mary Maertens, B.S; FACHE; MHA; PHN; RN, Regional President and CEO, Avera Marshall
Aaron Saude, Chief Executive Officer, Bigfork Valley Hospital
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David Nelson, President & CEO, CHI St. Francis Health
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Ben Koppelman, President, CHI St. Joseph's Health
Marc Gorelick, M.D.; MSCE, President & CEO, Children's Minnesota
Rick Breuer, CEO & Administrator, Community Memorial Hospital
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Kyle Bauer, Chief Executive Officer, Cuyuna Regional Medical Center
Patti Banks, Chief Operating Officer, Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital
David Herman, M.D., Chief Executive Officer, Essentia Health
Barbara Walczyk Joers, President & CEO, Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare
Kirk Stensrud, Chief Executive Officer, Glacial Ridge Health System
Patty Henderson, President and CEO, Glencoe Regional Health
Andrea Walsh, J.D., President and CEO, HealthPartners Inc.
Jeffrey Gollaher, Chief Executive Officer, Hendricks Community Hospital Association
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Stacey Lee, CPA; J.D.; LNHA, Chief Executive Officer, Johnson Memorial Health Services
Everett Butler, Interim Chief Executive Officer, Kittson Memorial Healthcare Center
Kent Mattson, Interim CEO/Chief Legal Officer/Chief Strategy Officer, Lake Region Healthcare
Tim Rice, President/CEO, Lakewood Health System
Keith Okeson, President & CEO, LifeCare Medical Center
James Hereford, President and Chief Executive Officer, M Health Fairview
Jeff Mengershausen, MBA, Chief Executive Officer, Madelia Community Hospital Inc.
Erik Bjerke, Chief Executive Officer, Madison Healthcare Services
Dale Kruger, Chief Executive Officer, Mahnomon Health Center
Gianrico Farrugia, M.D., President & CEO, Mayo Clinic Rochester
Kurt Waldbillig, Chief Executive Officer, Meeker Memorial Hospital & Clinics
Michael Youso, Chief Executive Officer, Mercy Hospital
Bill Nelson, Chief Executive Officer, Mille Lacs Health System
Patrick Kelly, FACHE, Director, Minneapolis VA Health Care System
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Dale Gillogly, Interim CEO, & VP, Sanford Health Network, Murray County Medical Center
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Jon Linnell, Chief Executive Officer, North Valley Health Center
Steven Underdahl, President & CEO, Northfield Hospital & Clinics
Timothy Weir, FACHE, Chief Executive Officer, Olmsted Medical Center
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Chuck Hofius, Chief Executive Officer, Perham Health
Danielle Lesmeister, Chief Executive Officer, Prairie Ridge Hospital and Health Services
Todd Archbold, LSW; MBA, Chief Executive Officer, PrairieCare Brooklyn Park
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Richard Ash, Chief Executive Officer, United Hospital District
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Shelby Medina, Chief Executive Officer, Windom Area Health
Rachelle Schultz, Ed.D., President & CEO, Winona Health Services
Rahul Koranne, M.D.; MBA; FACP, President & CEO, Minnesota Hospital Association