



Minnesota Hospital Association

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March 17, 2020

Via email: tim.walz@state.mn.us; jan.malcolm@state.mn.us

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

Commissioner Jan Malcolm
625 N. Robert St.
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55164-0975

Dear Gov. Walz and Commissioner Malcolm:

Thank you for your leadership in securing the emergency COVID-19 funding package. As we have discussed, this crisis will take significant resources, and on behalf of our hospitals and health systems, we appreciate that you have already signed this into law!

Today, I write to you with an urgent request. As you know, Minnesota's hospitals and health systems are in a race to prepare for an expected surge of COVID-19 patients. As we have conveyed to you over the past two weeks, the Minnesota Hospital Association continues to be concerned about the availability of supplies and inpatient capacity that need to be in place to treat a surge of acutely ill COVID-19 patients.

The state and nation face a critical shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE) and supplies for acute care. Very difficult decisions are already being made by our members in order to preserve PPE and to obtain supplies.

The U.S. Surgeon General, American College of Surgeons and numerous other public health experts have recommended the cancellation of all elective/non-emergent surgeries and procedures that utilize PPE. The cancellation for non-essential surgeries and procedures will protect patients and our workforce; preserve critically short supplies of PPE; and preserve inpatient bed capacity and other equipment for critically ill patients.

Many Minnesota hospitals are anticipating that they need to postpone elective surgery and procedures that, if delayed, will not cause harm to the patient. Examples include: some joint replacements, some cataract surgeries, some cardiac procedures and some interventional radiology services.

In order for this to be implemented effectively, we ask that the Governor in conjunction with the Minnesota Department of Health require the postponement of elective/non-emergent surgeries and procedures in all facilities licensed for surgery including hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers statewide to conserve supplies and equipment and protect our workforce.

Hospitals will continue to provide urgent procedures as it is safe to do so, prioritizing care that if delayed could negatively affect the patient's health outcome, harm the patient or lead to disability or death.

We urge you to act immediately to issue an executive order requiring the postponement of elective procedures at hospitals and all outpatient procedural sites such as ambulatory surgery centers. I am available to discuss this with you at your earliest convenience. Thank you for your continued leadership.

Warmest regards,

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

Cc: Chris Schmitter (chris.schmitter@state.mn.us)