



SEIU Healthcare

United for Quality Care

March 23, 2020

Dear Minnesota Hospital Association,

As the leader of the state's largest healthcare union, representing more than 50,000 workers, I write to offer our support and to engage your cooperation in building a unified response to the COVID-19 emergency in Minnesota. It is my hope that we can work together to ensure the safety of our patients and healthcare workers and to strategize ways we can meet the needs of our community in the face of this unprecedented public-health emergency.

Jamie Gulley
President

Jigme Ugen
Executive Vice President

Lisa Weed
Executive Vice President

Phillip Cryan
Executive Vice President

We acknowledge that our organizations have often been at odds on issues like legislation and contracts. As we enter this new period, however, we believe that our cooperation is more important than ever. The Minnesota public needs reassurance that everyone involved in providing vital health care services in our state is working together to address this crisis.

To that end, to minimize future disruptions, disagreements or delays in swift action on behalf of our state's emergency efforts, we request from you the following:

1. To meet with us and other healthcare unions, like the Minnesota Nurses Association, (by phone or video-conference) regularly, on industry planning efforts to respond to COVID-19 so that we can work together, pool our ideas, build trust and work toward unity of purpose on behalf of our patients and community.
2. To work together on implementing a consistent, industry-wide response for healthcare workers who are not able to work either because of Emergency Executive Order 20-09 or because of employer decisions to close certain operations to deal with the influx of COVID-19 patients. Specifically, we request that all employers commit to pay at least two weeks of paid administrative leave to any workers who are idled as we await news and prepare for the expected surge of COVID-19 patients.
3. To work collaboratively to devise industry-wide responses when new challenges emerge over the coming weeks and months in facing this crisis, to provide clarity and stability to workers and to reduce the amount of time and energy spent within each health care organization developing, implementing and resolving disputes around new policies and procedures.
4. To join together in calling on the Trump administration and Congress to release sufficient supplies and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) from the Strategic National Stockpile, and to order emergency production of additional PPE, COVID-19 test kits and supplies, to ensure the safety of all healthcare workers and patients in our community.

Thank you for your consideration and for your leadership during this time. I'm happy to provide additional detail and clarity of these requests. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Jamie Gulley
President
SEIU Healthcare Minnesota
CC: Chris Schmitter, Governor Walz

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