



UNAC/UHCP

United Nurses Associations of California/Union of Health Care Professionals

UNAC/UHCP is affiliated with NUHHCE, AFSCME and the AFL-CIO

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March 21, 2020

Carmela Coyle
President and Chief Executive Officer
California Hospital Association
1215 K Street, Suite 800
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Coyle:

United Nurses Associations of California/Union of Health Care Professionals (UNAC/UHCP) recognizes the historic opportunity to work with the California Hospital Association (CHA) and hospital leaders statewide to address the severe shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE) needed to treat patients amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 32,000 registered nurses and healthcare professionals of UNAC/UHCP are calling for our California hospitals to immediately take these three steps:

- 1) Postpone all elective procedures and nonemergency surgeries. We know that procedures are still being conducted and could take away from the supply of gloves, gowns, masks and other gear useful to COVID-19 diagnoses and treatments.
- 2) Show your hospital caregivers greater transparency in the status of the PPE supply levels. If your hospital has a plan to secure more equipment, it should be shared with registered nurses and other healthcare professionals who are trying to allay fears and plan on-the-ground treatment.
- 3) Partner with us, dedicated healthcare professionals, to strongly advocate at all levels of government and private enterprise to get the right equipment in the right hands at the right time. Our communities deserve nothing less, as they continue to be confused and uncertain about the future.

As the number of affected individuals and families grows exponentially in California—and elsewhere in the nation and the world—it is vital that we take these steps to ensure access to PPE—the equipment that will protect our front-line caregivers as we take care of patients.

Thank you for your continued support of our healthcare professionals and our patients.

Sincerely,

Denise Duncan, RN
UNAC/UHCP President

CC:

Hon. Gavin Newsom, Governor, State of California

Hon. Toni G. Atkins, Senate President Pro Tempore, California State Senate
Hon. Anthony Rendon, Speaker, California State Assembly
Christopher Howard, President and CEO, Sharp HealthCare
Gregory Adams, Chairman and CEO of Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc. and Hospitals
Richard Adcock, CEO, Verity Health
Eleanor Ramirez, RN, PHN, BSN, MS, Interim President and CEO, St. Francis Medical Center
Prem Reddy, MD, FACC, FCCP, Chairman, President and CEO, Prime Health Care
Timothy Moran, CEO, Chino Valley Medical Center
Neerav Jadeja, Paradise Valley Hospital
Richard M. Rowe, PharmD, CEO, Garden Grove Hospital and Medical Center
Ronald A. Rittenmeyer, Executive Chairman & CEO, Tenet Healthcare Corporation
John Grah, CEO, Lakewood Regional Medical Center
Kenneth D. McFarland, CEO, Fountain Valley Regional Hospital
John Friel, CEO, Bear Valley Community Hospital
Jonathan Wu, MD, Founder and Chairman, AHMC Healthcare
David Batista, Parkview Community Hospital Medical Center
Alice Cheng, FACHE, President and CEO, Beverly Hospital