

ONE MEASURE



A message to community leaders on COVID-19

From the desk of Dennis M. Murphy
President and Chief Executive Officer,
IU Health

As Hoosiers confront an unprecedented health crisis, I'd like to share with you how IU Health is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are guided by four overarching principles as we address COVID-19:

1. Mitigate the spread of the virus
2. Ensure the safety of our team members
3. Be good stewards of scarce resources
4. Be a trusted source of information about COVID-19

To slow the spread of COVID-19, we quickly created a 24/7 virtual screening clinic and began training more than 270 IU Health nurses to staff it. In three weeks, we screened more than 23,000 Hoosiers, providing most with reassurance, but also telling almost 1,000 that they should self-isolate, referring more than 75 for additional medical care.

At this writing, the number of Hoosiers infected and hospitalized with COVID-19 continues to rise dramatically. The modeling and analysis of our infectious disease experts suggest we have not reached the peak of COVID-19's spread in Indiana. It would be a profound mistake to prematurely lift the social distancing requirements that will both flatten the curve of the virus's transmission and save lives.

We are encouraged by the alignment of local mayors and business leaders with the Governor's stay-at-home policy, and continue to reinforce it as the best current approach to limiting this outbreak. I know staying home is hard on families, communities, and our economy, but our best bet for sustained economic recovery will be with a healthy workforce and consumers who are unafraid to venture out in public.

So far, our supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE) and critical devices like ventilators are holding up, but we are using them at unprecedented daily rates. We are able to forecast our demand and that demand exceeds our current supply. However, we are confident we can meet our future demand using three integrated strategies: we are acquiring new PPE from existing and new suppliers; we will safely decontaminate and reuse PPE when possible; and we will continue our efforts to conserve PPE.

Our caregivers are dedicated to their patients, but they are also understandably worried about becoming infected themselves or bringing the virus home to their families. That's why their safety is and will remain such a high priority.

As we always do, Hoosiers are coming together to help each other and we are grateful for assistance from a range of Hoosier companies including Cook Medical, Eli Lilly and Company, Mursix Corporation, Subaru, FedEx and Vera Bradley. We also appreciate the support from community members around the state for our caregivers. Our team members are encouraged by notes of support on Facebook, shared meals, and offers of childcare while team members care for patients, and perhaps, someone you know.

Hoosier ingenuity is also coming to the forefront. A local medical device company is testing whether a decontamination process they use for other medical equipment can be applied to our surgical masks so they can be reused. And we are working with a start-up company based at Purdue to see whether their low-cost ventilator technology will meet our requirements.

As IU Health caregivers focus on providing our patients with the best possible care during this pandemic, we are working to do all we can to support them and provide for their needs. In addition to ensuring they have the proper PPE needed to care for COVID-19 patients safely, we are committed to keeping our team members employed, even if they are working a different job than they are used to. We are working with community partners to provide child care options for team members who continue to work during school closings, and are expanding access to financial, emotional and spiritual resources to address work and family-related anxieties.

I noted above that one of our objectives during the COVID-19 pandemic was for IU Health to be a trusted source of information about the virus and how to mitigate its spread. IU Health experts have given more than 100 media interviews since the start of the pandemic, and we have been consulted regularly by state and local officials as they have developed and adjusted their responses to the pandemic. For the most up to date information, visit [coronavirus.gov](https://www.coronavirus.gov).

As we know from other crisis situations, first responders and healthcare workers all over the country are the true heroes of this crisis. It is an honor to work with them, and to do all we can for them. One of my colleagues at IU Health said it best, "We've trained for this our entire career. Now we are putting our expertise towards this effort to keep everyone safe and healthy." I am proud of all our team members who are demonstrating the highest degree of professionalism and dedication under very challenging and rapidly changing conditions.

As always, we at IU Health are here to care for people in times of need, 24/7/365...whether the need is personal or community-wide. It's our job. We are grateful for your support and cooperation with social distancing. Together, while our lives have dramatically changed, we will get through this, and be even better prepared to fulfill our vision of making Indiana one of the nation's healthiest states.

Sincerely,

Dennis M. Murphy

→ COVID-19 Resources

As COVID-19 continues to impact a growing number of people in our communities, IU Health has created an online resource center with helpful information from our expert physicians about steps that can be taken to prevent the spread of the virus. The resource center also explains how individuals who suspect they have the virus can get a free video screening.

[Visit the Online Resource Center](#)

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