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EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

May 12, 2020
Resiliency Webinar: Signature Strengths at Work
 Webinar

May 12, 2020
Enhancing Resilience: Practicing Safe Stress and the Science of Sleep
 Webinar

June 9, 2020
Building and Fostering a High-Performing Board
 Webinar

Hospitals Continue Safe Phase-in of Resumed Services

As many of the latest COVID-19 health care data trends continue to show improvement, hospitals and clinics across the state are continuing a gradual, safe restart of services and procedures that had been postponed during the throes of the COVID-19 pandemic. Amid this transition to resuming treatments, screenings and other necessary services, WHA is reinforcing the fact that Wisconsin’s nation-leading hospital and health care system features environments that are the safest places people can visit.

“There is a distressing impact coming from our state’s dealing with the pandemic – a perception from some who have seen pictures and stories from other states that Wisconsin’s hospitals are overrun or unsafe,” WHA President and CEO Eric Borgerding said. “We hear from our members that patients continue to face fears caused by the pandemic and are sometimes putting off seeking treatment or even emergency care. We are taking every opportunity to dispel inaccurate perceptions of Wisconsin’s hospitals and clinics,” Borgerding said.

Those efforts include working proactively with state elected officials to remind their social media audiences about Wisconsin’s safe and clean clinical environments. WHA has also held a dozen “virtual roundtable” online events, allowing hospital and health system leaders to share their challenges and experiences directly with their local elected officials (See next story). In organizing the events, WHA staff are providing participants with this [helpful one-page memo](#) briefly summarizing health care’s actions during the pandemic and emphasizing how policymakers can support their community hospitals.

Rep. Katrina Shankland
 April 30 at 10:36 AM · 🌐

I was glad to attend a virtual meeting with healthcare leaders across Central and Western Wisconsin this morning. It was great to hear directly from them about testing, PPE, and the safety procedures they have in place to best serve you.

Wisconsin hospitals encourage patients to use the emergency department or urgent care if they feel it is necessary. Patients should never hesitate to seek emergency care if they are experiencing symptoms. Our state's hospitals and clinics are safe, clean, and taking all necessary precautions to care for patients and their families.

Patients should also contact their provider to discuss when they can schedule other important care.

Senator Alberta Darling
 April 30 at 3:28 PM · 🌐

Please remember that if you have an urgent medical need, our hospitals and urgent care clinics are open, safe, and ready to help you. Don't delay your medical care. Contact your health provider to make sure you get the care you need.

Representative Tony Kurtz
 May 2 at 9:29 AM · 🌐

I think my post from last week is worth repeating:

As the weather warms up and more and more people get outside to enjoy our beautiful area, many of us will be doing activities we have not done for months, or in some cases years. We will be hiking, biking, gardening, cutting firewood, and so many more great outdoor activities.

Unfortunately, I'm hearing more and more stories where folks are hesitant, or in some cases afraid, to seek medical attention. Because of the fear of COVID-19. It's true our hospitals are focused on defeating COVID-19, like we all are.

However, I cannot stress this enough! Our three incredible medical facilities: Mile Bluff Medical Center, Reedsburg Area Medical Center, and The Richland Hospital, Inc. are all open and able to provide the safest and healthy atmosphere around.

So, if you're experiencing unusual chest pains, tick bites, and any other sorts of ailments or injuries please DO NOT WAIT to visit an emergency room or a urgent care clinic – go immediately! #WisconsinStrong

Gordon Hintz
 May 1 at 8:15 AM · 🌐

Patients should never hesitate to seek emergency care if they are experiencing symptoms. Our state's hospitals and clinics are safe, clean and taking all necessary precautions to care for patients and their families.

Jerry Petrowski
 April 30 at 3:18 PM · 🌐

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WHA Hosts Virtual Roundtables with Members, State Lawmakers

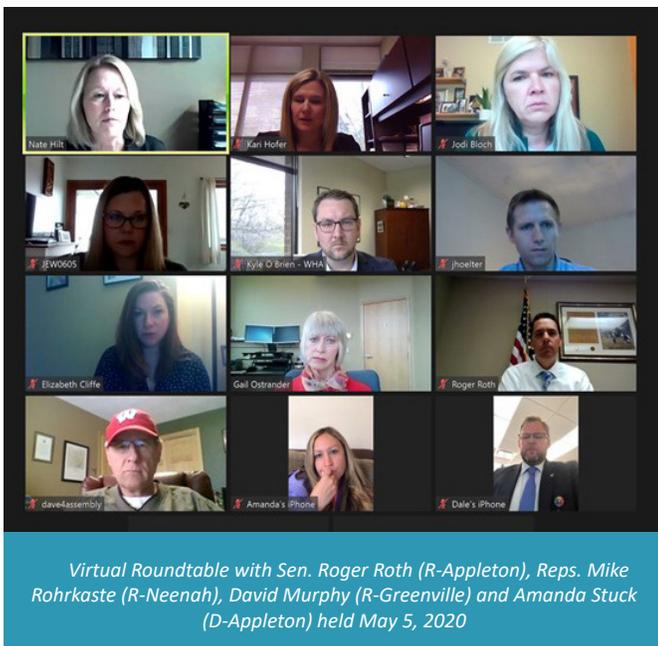
While the COVID-19 pandemic has prompted significant social distancing in everyday lives across Wisconsin, WHA members have embraced tools to ensure hospitals and health systems can connect with their elected officials – especially during these important times.

WHA's Government Relations and Advocacy teams been hosting "Virtual Roundtable" meetings this past week, allowing hospital and system leaders to share what health care is experiencing in local communities. Using Zoom teleconferencing technology, WHA has helped hold 12 virtual roundtables with 45 legislators covering the steps hospitals are taking to safely reopen services and return to a normal level of care.

"These virtual roundtable discussions have been an effective way to continue important conversations between policymakers and their hospital and health system constituents," WHA Senior Vice President of Government Relations Kyle O'Brien said. "Even though hospitals can't invite their elected officials into their facilities for face-to-face meetings right now, we are making sure that the state legislature hears from their community's health care leaders about the challenges they're facing and how state government can help."

As hospitals begin to transition into rescheduling non-emergency, essential procedures, challenges still remain including patient perception in seeking care, ongoing supply chain constraints for PPE and testing supplies, and further care delays due to supply shortages. Lawmakers are partnering with WHA and member hospitals to remind patients that hospitals and clinics are safe, clean places that are taking all necessary precautions to care for patients.

There are at least three more "Virtual Roundtables" scheduled to take place in the next week with plans to continue hosting them all around the state.



DHS Posts COVID-19 Test Sites Map

The state's Department of Health services has created an [online map](#) showing public testing locations for patients showing symptoms of COVID-19.

The map is updated daily, and shows locations, hours of operation, contact information and information on how to make an appointment.



WHA Creates PPE Supply Resource

WHA created another key resource to assist its members in securing personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies. Manufacturers and suppliers have been invited to list their offers of PPE types (masks, respirators, gloves, etc.) so potential buyers can contact them directly. Hospitals will be able to use the service to replenish depleted PPE stock, as well as create another supply chain for future use. The listing is located in [Resources](#), behind the Member Login link on the WHA home page .

HHS Releases \$10 Billion in COVID Relief Rural Payments and \$12 Billion in Payments to Hotspot Hospitals

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released another round of funding from the \$175 billion provider relief fund authorized in the CARES Act and its follow-up legislation. On May 6, HHS began to release [funds totaling \\$10 billion](#) which will go to rural acute care general hospitals, critical access hospitals, rural health clinics and community health centers in rural areas.

According to HHS, 170 rural sites in Wisconsin will receive a total of \$363.5 million, or about 3.6% of the overall funding. All clinical non-hospital sites will receive a minimum of \$100,000 while all critical access hospitals will receive a minimum of \$1 million, with additional payments based on operating expenses. HHS projects that the average hospital will receive about \$4 million. As of press time, HHS has not announced formal definitions of criteria they are using to determine whether a hospital is rural nor have they provided a list of entities receiving payments. WHA is continuing to pursue this information.

HHS also announced \$12 billion will be sent to so-called hotspot hospitals that admitted 100 or more COVID-19 patients as of April 10. The vast majority of this funding was targeted to states that saw the earliest and largest outbreaks, such as New York, New Jersey, and Michigan. Only two hospitals in Wisconsin will receive funding from this pot, for a total of about \$32 million between the two.

Together with the \$50 billion general pot of funding that was previously distributed, a total of \$72 billion has been distributed from the \$175 billion authorized in the CARES Act provider relief fund to date. HHS is also using an undetermined portion of these funds to reimburse care at Medicare rates for uninsured COVID-19 patients [through HRSA's Uninsured Program Portal](#). While no additional details have been given on the approximately \$100 billion in remaining funds, federal lawmakers in the U.S. House of Representatives have announced plans to vote on a fifth COVID-19 stimulus bill as early as next week. Despite this, leaders in the U.S. Senate have indicated a desire to pause and gather more information before crafting legislation in their chamber.

WHA is continuing to stay in close contact with Wisconsin's Congressional Delegation to keep them informed of financial and other challenges Wisconsin hospitals continue to face, despite the federal funding received to date. Please contact WHA Director of Federal and State Relations [Jon Hoelster](#) with questions.

Annual Partners of WHA Awards

The Partners of WHA are again proud to announce that the application process for their annual awards (WAVE and BOB) are open for your consideration.

BOB (Best of the Best)

The annual "Best of the Best Administrative Award" honors one top on-site administrator of a Wisconsin hospital who demonstrates a cooperative, supportive, enthusiastic, and well-defined relationship with his or her volunteer organization. For more information and to submit a nomination, please click [here](#).

WAVE (Wisconsin Awards for Volunteer Excellence)

The Wisconsin Awards for Volunteer Excellence (WAVE) program was established by Partners of WHA, Inc. to recognize outstanding contributions of organized volunteer programs and is patterned after the AHA (American Hospital Association) HAVE (Hospital Award for Volunteer Excellence) Awards program. The WAVE Award recognizes volunteer programs whose work directly furthers the mission of the institutions they serve. One WAVE Award may be given to a program in each of the four categories:

- Community Service
- Fundraising
- In-Service
- Community Outreach and/or Collaboration

For more information and to submit a nomination, please click [here](#).



National Nurses Week

Nurses have played a major role in healing humanity – from war, disease, poverty and starvation. And today, they continue to steadfastly do as they have always done – care for the ill, the injured, the infirm, the dying. National Nurses Week seeks to honor the individuals known as the heart of health care. In 2020 nurses are celebrated as the heroes in health care.



Florence Nightingale

Nurses Week begins on May 6 and runs through May 12, Florence Nightingale's birthday. Florence Nightingale was born in 1820 and died in 1910. She is commonly known as "The Lady with the Lamp" and the founder of modern nursing. Nightingale was an English social reformer and statistician. She came to prominence while serving as a manager and trainer of nurses during the Crimean War, in which she organized care for wounded soldiers. She would often make rounds of wounded soldiers at night carrying a lamp.

The Nightingale Pledge is often recited at graduation and pinning ceremonies for nurses. The pledge was named after Florence Nightingale as a token of esteem. The Nightingale Pledge was composed by Lystra Gretter, an instructor of nursing at Harper Hospital in Detroit, Michigan, and was first used by its graduating class in the spring of 1893. It is an adaptation of the Hippocratic Oath. Through the years, the wording has been adapted to make it more modern and relevant, and other versions are often used.



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The Nightingale Pledge - 1893

I solemnly pledge myself before God and in the presence of this assembly to pass my life in purity and to practise my profession faithfully. I shall abstain from whatever is deleterious and mischievous, and shall not take or knowingly administer any harmful drug. I shall do all in my power to maintain and elevate the standard of my profession and will hold in confidence all personal matters committed to my keeping and all family affairs coming to my knowledge in the practice of my calling. I shall be loyal to my work and devoted towards the welfare of those committed to my care.



(Hospitals Continue Safe Phase-In of Resumed Services . . . continued from page 1)

Badger Bounce Back Plan – Hospital Metrics Unveiled

The overall safety of the state’s hospital network is now included as part of measures Governor Tony Evers is using in his administration’s plan to gradually reopen the state’s businesses. Wisconsin’s Department of Health Services recently [announced](#) hospital-related metrics included in Governor’s “[Badger Bounce Back](#)” (BBB) plan. The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) – the hub of state government’s efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic – consulted with WHA in developing the metrics.

The Governor’s plan requires six factors be satisfied before an initiation of a phased-in reopening. The hospital metrics announced May 5 by DHS include:

- At least 95% of hospitals able to treat patients without “crisis care.”
- At least 95% of hospitals affirm they can arrange for testing off all symptomatic clinical staff who treating patients.
- A downward trend of COVID-19 cases among health care workers, as measured weekly.

“The new hospital metrics are balanced and reasonable for the purpose intended – affirming that Wisconsin hospitals are not in crisis mode as a result of COVID-19,” Borgerding said in a statement following the announcement of the new metrics. “The data will likely show that Wisconsin’s hospitals have been handling the impact of COVID-19 quite well.”

The “crisis care” metric utilizes the Institute of Medicine’s health care disaster planning guidelines, first described in 2009. Other metrics in the six-factor BBB plan include 14-day downward trends in both reported COVID- and influenza-like illnesses, as well as a downward trajectory in positive COVID-19 tests as a percentage of total tests, also over a 14-day period.

Contact WHA Vice President of Workforce and Clinical Practice [Ann Zenk](#) for more information about the hospital metrics.