



We care about Iowa's health

Joint Statement on COVID-19 from the Iowa Hospital Association's physician leadership group and the Iowa Organization for Nursing Leadership:

As the physician and nurse leaders of Iowa hospitals and health care systems, we have an important safety message about COVID-19.

In recent weeks, we have seen COVID-19 cases trending upward statewide and hospitalizations have more than doubled in the past month. This alarming increase puts our entire health care workforce at risk. If these trends continue, physicians, nurses and support staff who have been on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic since March will suffer additional stress and risk infection, illness and death.

Our message is driven by health care data and guidance, not politics. Public health draws on data to chart the route from where we are now to where we need to go. It keeps hospitals and health care facilities safe for patients to receive routine and emergency care. This guidance also will help prevent further surges in hospital admissions and COVID-19 deaths, keep our schools and businesses open and allow our economy to thrive. But we need your help.

Iowa's physicians, nurses, hospitals and health care systems are standing with our public health colleagues as a united front in our efforts to fight the spread of COVID-19. It is imperative that every Iowa resident join us in taking the necessary steps to prevent the spread of this deadly disease.

Our hospitals and health care facilities will continue requiring staff, patients and visitors to follow public safety protocols, including mask-wearing, screenings when entering our facilities and limiting access to visitors and caregivers. We ask that you:

- Avoid crowds and gatherings.
- Cover your mouth when you cough.
- Stay at least six feet apart.
- Stay home if you are experiencing any respiratory or unexplained symptoms, such as a fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, loss of taste or smell, or other common COVID-19 symptoms.
- Wash your hands frequently.
- Wear a mask.
- Get your flu shot.

We ask you to do this to keep our patients, visitors and health care workers safe. When you do this, you're helping keep the ones you love and others around you safe.

Support our dedicated and courageous health care heroes as they continue the fight against COVID-19 while safely caring for your health care needs.

The simple acts of wearing masks, washing hands and physically distancing are the most effective tools we have in the fight against COVID-19. It is incumbent on each of us to do all we can to limit the spread.