



March 19, 2020

To the Arlington Community:

Virginia Hospital Center has provided world-class medical services to the Arlington community for more than 75 years. Providing each individual patient with compassionate, safe, and quality care is at the heart of all we do.

So it is with that spirit in mind that we are reaching out to apprise you of how Virginia Hospital Center is partnering with numerous agencies and organizations locally as well as those at the state and federal levels. But this communication is more than an information share – **it is also a call to action.**

We ask you to partner with us by supporting, advocating, and promoting the Hospital's efforts to mitigate the effects of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) on our community.

The steps we are taking are wide-ranging and comprehensive. For example, Virginia Hospital Center, in partnership with Arlington County Public Health, Arlington County Police, and the Arlington County Fire Department, has just opened a temporary drive-through COVID-19 sample collection site near Washington-Liberty High School. Samples are being collected from individuals who have presented with symptoms and have a written order for testing from a healthcare provider. Afterwards, these patients are being encouraged to self-quarantine until they receive their test results.

Unfortunately, we anticipate things will get worse before they get better. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is projecting that as few as 20% and as high as more than 60 % of the U.S. population will be infected with COVID-19. Recent experiences in Italy have highlighted the critical need to ensure adequate capacity of inpatient and intensive care (ICU) beds to accommodate what is likely to be a surge of seriously ill patients.

A COVID-19 patient surge could push inpatient and ICU bed capacity nationwide anywhere from 137% to more than 257%. Rest assured, Virginia Hospital Center is collaborating closely with local, state, and federal partners to ensure we are ready for this expected surge in patients.

Right now, doctors, nurses, allied health professionals, and support staff are hard at work on the Virginia Hospital Center campus providing exceptional care and ensuring uninterrupted hospital services. In some instances however, it has been determined that in the best interest of our patients, some outpatient services, as well as education, training, and community meetings, have been suspended. We have also implemented a revised visitor policy that significantly limits the number of people coming into our facilities.

For the most up-to-date information on how we are addressing COVID-19, we encourage you to visit the Hospital's website at www.virginiahospitalcenter.com.

These important and necessary actions are having an extraordinary effect on the Hospital's operating budget. We need to make sure the resources that are required to treat our patients effectively, to keep our employees safe, and to maintain critical partnerships remain available so that we can protect our community's safety and well-being during this unprecedented pandemic.

For this reason, the Virginia Hospital Center Foundation has launched a special appeal to the community, offering interested individuals, families, businesses and organizations an opportunity to help the Hospital to manage these additional expenses. While aid from the federal and state government will address this in many ways, there will still be expenditures that will not be reimbursed or supported by government assistance, and delayed procedures and patients visits will also result in significant lost revenue.

The Hospital's board and we are asking for your thoughtful consideration as to how you and other members of the community can help Virginia Hospital Center continue to provide the best healthcare outcomes and experiences to our community.

- Share our story with your friends, family members, customers, associates, or colleagues;
- Relay up-to-date information on the steps the Hospital is taking to protect the public health;
- Support the special COVID-19 Appeal; and
- Invite others to join you.

With your partnership, Virginia Hospital Center will continue to lead and meet our healthcare needs, both during this time of crisis and well into the future. If you have any questions about how you can help, please call Tony Burchard at 703.558.5562 or by email aburchard@virginiahospitalcenter.com.

Thank you for your support, engagement, and advocacy – today and every day.

Sincerely,



James B. Cole
President & CEO
Virginia Hospital Center



Anthony T. Burchard
President
Virginia Hospital Center Foundation

PS – For information on how to support the COVID-19 Appeal as well as other related helpful resources, please visit <https://vhcfoundation.com/covid19>. Thank you.

PPS – If you wish, you can support the appeal by sending a check made out to the *Virginia Hospital Center Foundation* to 1701 N George Mason Drive Arlington, VA 22205.