

A Week of Thanks for DE Hospitals and Healthcare Workers



Last week, we celebrated National Hospital Week and thanked each of our hospitals and their healthcare workers who are fighting on the front lines against COVID-19 in a new <u>video</u>. This week, we are taking the opportunity to highlight the leadership of our hospitals in **testing over 49,000 Delawareans** for COVID-19.

We are also seeking your help in spreading the word that Delawareans should not delay seeking medical care out of fear of coronavirus. Delaware **hospitals are safe and ready** to care for your medical needs, particularly as they begin to resume non-urgent procedures and appointments. <u>See my op-ed</u> in the Delaware State News for more on this.

Finally, we cannot lose sight of the fact that this pandemic has had a significant financial impact on those fighting COVID-19. The News Journal's recent <u>article</u> highlights the **more than \$5 million per day (\$170 million per month)** our hospitals are losing during this crisis.

Please continue stay safe and healthy.



Wayne A. Smith President & CEO Delaware Healthcare Association

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Breaking News: Delaware is One of the Least Expensive States for Hospital Expenses

DE Ranks 3rd for the Lowest Increase in Hospital Expenses Per Visit in the Nation over 10-year Period

Today the Delaware Healthcare Association celebrated Delaware's ranking as third in the nation for the lowest increase in hospital expenses per visit over a ten-year period. The <u>ranking was done by</u> <u>QuoteWizard Insurance News</u>, signaling that Delaware hospitals' commitment to providing value-based care is paying off.



ChristianaCare President & CEO Dr. Janice Nevin and ChristianaCare healthcare heroes at a COVID-19 drive-thru testing event.

COVID-19 Testing

Delaware Hospitals Lead the Way in COVID-19 Testing

In a new **DHA blog post**, we highlight how our hospitals have stepped up to respond to the coronavirus with screening and testing events throughout the state. To date,

Delaware has tested more than 50,000 people for COVID-19. Delaware hospitals have tested the vast majority of those individuals -- more than 49,000 people in Delaware.

These testing sites and events take serious planning in order to execute safely and effectively. They require staff time, testing supplies, adequate personal protective equipment, follow up for communicating results, and ongoing care for those that test positive. While many of these events are absolutely free for Delawareans, they come with tremendous financial costs for the hospitals.

As the state moves to expand testing efforts to include more health care providers, be assured that our hospitals will continue to play a critical role.

To read DHA's blog on COVID-19 testing, visit: <u>http://www.deha.org/News/DHA-Blog/Delaware-Hospitals-Lead-the-Way-in-COVID-19-Testin</u>



Don't Delay Seeking Medical Care



Delaware Hospitals Are Safe and Ready to Care for You

The Delaware State News recently featured my op-ed <u>"Don't let fear keep you</u> <u>from getting medical care,"</u> highlighting the unfortunate situation many hospitals are seeing -- patients with serious injuries or illnesses have delayed seeking medical care out of concern that they may come in contact with COVID-19 at the hospital. As a result, their condition worsens and can even become life-threatening. Don't make this mistake!

Please help us spread the word that Delaware hospitals are safe and open 24/7 to address urgent health care needs, including non-COVID-related emergencies. This message is increasingly important as our hospitals and health systems resume elective procedures and surgeries. Be assured that Delaware hospitals have taken extraordinary steps to ensure the safety of their patients and health care workers and to prevent the spread of COVID-19.



Delaware Hospitals' Financial Losses

COVID-19 is Having a Major Financial Impact on Delaware Hospitals

In a May 14th article, <u>"Because of coronavirus, Delaware hospitals say they are</u> <u>losing \$5 million a day</u>," the News Journal describes the financial impact that COVID-19 is having on Delaware hospitals.

Since preparations for COVID-19 began, Delaware's general acute care and pediatric hospitals have lost and continue to lose **more than \$5.66 million per day** (nearly \$170 million per month) because of canceled non-emergency services and surgeries and extraordinary COVID-19 expenses ranging from the purchase of additional personal protective equipment to hiring more staff.

While the resumption of some non-critical procedures and surgeries (<u>announced this</u> <u>week</u>) will begin to increase revenues, hospitals are a long way from operating at normal volumes and our members expect significant and sustained losses for the foreseeable future.

Delaware's <u>behavioral health</u> and <u>rehabilitation hospitals</u> are also experiencing significant financial loss during this crisis. Together, behavioral health and rehabilitation hospitals in Delaware lose an additional \$3 million per month.

Although federal funds in the amount of \$85 million have been received by acute care hospitals in Delaware, this covers approximately two weeks of losses. We are concerned about the viability of some of our state's hospitals over the long-term absent additional state and federal support.



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For questions, please contact Christina Bryan, Director, Communications and Policy for the Delaware Healthcare Association at christina@deha.org

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