



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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JUDITH M. PERSICILLI, RN, BSN, MA
Commissioner

April 24, 2020

Mr. Ted Shaw, President/CEO
Texas Hospital Association
1108 Lavaca St., Suite 700
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Mr. Shaw:

We are writing to you because your member health systems are located in areas that have the potential to help our state as we respond to COVID-19. As you may know, New Jersey has the second largest number of COVID-19 cases in the nation, and your members may be in a position to help us as your community is experiencing fewer COVID-19 cases. As healthcare professionals, our collective mission is to ensure the health and wellbeing of patients. We need your help in achieving that goal in New Jersey.

As we write this, New Jersey has [99,989 positive cases and 5,368 deaths](#) recorded, with more than 7,000 hospitalized cases and over 1,400 patients on ventilators. As a point of reference, the number of deaths attributed to COVID-19 is more than 5 times as many lives as our state lost during the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. New Jersey needs your help!

To respond to this invisible enemy, our healthcare workers have valiantly stood on the frontline, providing life-saving care to the thousands of hospitalized individuals in our state. To support New Jerseyans, we, with the support of the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Department of Defense, the National Guard and FEMA, have set up three Field Medical Stations (FMS) with 1,000 total beds to help treat the deluge of ill individuals.

We are kindly requesting that you help us serve those in need by putting out a call to your members to consider sending clinical teams on a mission to work in one of our FMS for two or more weeks. Health systems across the country have already [embraced this larger mission of sharing staff with areas in need](#) in New Jersey, now we, the State, are hoping you will follow their example. We are especially in need of respiratory therapists and technicians, CRNAs, and physicians, particularly those with specialties in Emergency Medicine.

We have secured partnerships with United Airlines and Delta Airlines which will cover the travel costs of approved medical missions from Denver, Minneapolis, Houston, and Salt Lake City airports. We will process all licensure requirements to ensure your staff can work legally in New Jersey. We will host these medical missions in secure hotels located near the FMS. The accommodations will have full wraparound services including, laundry, food and other key goods and services. All individuals will have their own rooms. Of course, all healthcare

professionals who work in our FMS will have the appropriate personal protective equipment to ensure they can provide care without putting themselves at risk.

Now is a time to embrace our interdependence and shared destiny. By answering the call to serve, you will help New Jersey keep the virus contained within our State's borders. You will help save lives. You will also show the country and the world that you can be counted on when you are most needed. You will be a catalyst for others to step up and help in this grueling battle. In return, we promise to be there for you.

In solidarity,



Judith M. Persichilli, RN, BSN, MA
Commissioner
New Jersey Department of Health



Cathleen Bennett, JD, MGA
President & CEO
New Jersey Hospital Association

