

Economic Recovery Advisory Board  
*Public Health and Healthcare Workgroup*

Dear Hospital Colleagues:

On June 18, 2020, Governor Reynolds signed an Executive Order establishing the Governor's Economic Recovery Advisory Board in response to COVID-19. The board will focus on modernizing Iowa's economy as well as education, health care, workforce and quality of life. Your role and leadership in Iowa's public health and healthcare system is incredibly important and we need your advice and feedback.

As a subcommittee of the board, the Public Health and Healthcare Working Group is tasked with assessing pandemic preparedness and response, as well as developing strategies to improve the overall health of Iowans and strengthen health care access points. To guide this work, we have developed five key areas of focus for the group:

1. Pandemic Preparation and Response;
2. Access to Care for Iowans: Partnerships;
3. Access to Care for Iowans: Rural/Urban;
4. Workforce; and
5. Supporting Unique Needs of Every Iowan.

Given the breadth of the working group's charge and the short timeframe to accomplish the work, we invite you to provide written feedback. The working group will consider all feedback received in developing its recommendations for proposed strategies to the full board. A summary of feedback received will also be included in the group's final report to the board.

To help guide your feedback, please consider the following questions.

- From your unique perspective in the state's public health and healthcare system, what worked well in the pandemic preparation and response? What did not work well?
- Moving forward, what tangible steps do you recommend the state take to address gaps in the public health and healthcare system?
- What top 3 actions would you prioritize from your response to the previous question?
- Did your hospital system experience a loss of revenue or additional expenses due to COVID-19? If so, please quantify, including costs associated with physical structures and salaries, and reflective of any aid received during the pandemic.

You may submit your written feedback to [COVIDAdvisoryBoard@dhs.state.ia.us](mailto:COVIDAdvisoryBoard@dhs.state.ia.us). The deadline for submission is Friday, August 7, 2020, at 11:59 pm.

In addition to the written feedback, the working group will hold listening sessions on the areas of focus to provide an opportunity for stakeholders like you to engage in the dialogue and share experiences and ideas. The schedule for listening sessions is posted [here](#).

Should you have questions or need additional information, please contact [COVIDAdvisoryBoard@dhs.state.ia.us](mailto:COVIDAdvisoryBoard@dhs.state.ia.us). We look forward to partnering with you on this effort.

Sincerely,

Randy Edeker, Co-Chair  
President and CEO, Hy-Vee

Suresh Gunasekaran, Co-Chair  
CEO, University of Iowa  
Hospitals and Clinics

Kelly Garcia, Co-Chair  
Director, Department of  
Human Services