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Wisconsin Hospital Association Urges Unity, Calls for Significant Resources from State COVID Legislation

Madison, Wis., Nov. 19, 2020—Wisconsin Hospital Association President and CEO Eric Borgerding today sent a letter to Governor Evers and the state’s legislative leaders detailing the stress placed on the state’s hospitals and health systems by uncontrolled COVID-19 community spread across Wisconsin and suggesting specific legislative action to combat the pandemic. Borgerding acknowledged previous efforts that have taken place, some of which have been nullified in the courts, and called on all lawmakers to come together on a statewide mitigation strategy.

Providing Wisconsin’s latest COVID-19 statistics showing exponential growth in cases, hospitalizations and deaths throughout the state, Borgerding wrote, “With few tools available right now to curb spread other than increasingly urgent public appeals, our COVID numbers are growing rapidly and predict, quite accurately so far, a health care crisis in Wisconsin that without significant, swift, and unified action will become a catastrophe,” wrote Borgerding. “This is hard to fathom for many across the state, but for those fighting this ever-growing battle in our hospitals, the data simply illustrate the human tragedy playing out in front of them every day.”

Borgerding called on Democratic and Republican state leaders to cooperate on quick, decisive actions aimed at slowing the spread of COVID-19; addressing the state’s urgent health care workforce shortage; providing critically needed financial and human resources to our state’s hospitals; creating additional alternate care facility capacity for post-acute care; and streamline Medicaid regulations that can pose a barrier to care.

“A crisis of this magnitude caused by a virus that is so clearly raging across all of Wisconsin demands a unified and substantial response,” wrote Borgerding. “Your joint leadership is critical to improve this situation, allowing everyone to get back to our way of life sooner.”

To view a copy of this letter to Governor Evers and legislative leaders, [click here](#).