

CHA Media Statement

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California Hospitals Support Gov. Newsom's Efforts to Stem Continued Spread of COVID-19

"California's hospitals stand in support of the added regional measures taken today by the Governor to further stem the extraordinary, continued spread of COVID-19," said Carmela Coyle, President & CEO of the California Hospital Association. "The number of COVID-19 positive cases is rising at an alarming rate, far greater than anything California experienced in our previous summer surge. The steps taken today by the Governor are essential to stop unnecessary illness and death among Californians."

"The number of Californians testing positive for the virus is growing exponentially — from some 3,200 people testing positive on October 31 to nearly 19,000 people testing positive on a single day just four weeks later," Coyle noted. "That is translating into an exponential growth in the number of COVID-19 related hospitalizations, with even more expected in the next days and weeks. Intensive care unit (ICU) beds in California are already 80% full in the aggregate."

"Hospitals are doing everything possible to address this crush of acute care needs but are challenged by a lack of needed critical care nurses, worldwide shortages of personal protective equipment and testing supplies, and other challenges," Coyle said. "There is no more precious resource in this battle against COVID-19 than the women and men in California's hospitals who dedicate themselves to caring and curing — the incredible nurses, doctors, therapists, environmental service workers, and so many others who have been fighting this crisis for months. They are amazing, but exhausted heroes who need the support of every Californian to do their part in stopping the spread of the pandemic."

"Hospitals will continue to partner with state officials and with the nurses, doctors, and others who are fighting every day to keep all Californians safe and healthy," Coyle said.

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