

03/20/2020

Dear Tulane Health System colleagues,

We have heard from several of you about rumors of increased quarantine policies being instituted in New Orleans, including that caregivers will be forced to remain inside the hospital for days at a time. These are unsubstantiated fears – we have no knowledge of anything like that being discussed by state or local leaders.

You, of course, know that social distancing and limiting unnecessary travel is vital to “flattening the curve” and keeping our hospitals from being overwhelmed. But even if increased travel restrictions are instituted in New Orleans, they will likely be similar to those recently implemented in California, which still allow healthcare workers and support staff an exception to travel to their care sites.

We’ve already discussed this possibility with our HCA MidAmerica Division leaders and local emergency response officials, and we’re developing letters that would be distributed to hospital staff and physicians granting “safe passage” to our hospitals. We also will have letters that can be used by those who provide childcare services to our staff, allowing them “safe passage” to and from your homes to provide that service, if needed.

These are trying and often frightening times. That can be a breeding ground for unproductive rumors. Please only trust what you see and hear from official sources, such as the governor’s office, the Louisiana Department of Health and hospital leadership. And if you have any questions, don’t hesitate to reach out to your manager.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bob Lynch

CEO

Tulane Health System