



Dear Tulane Health System colleagues,

Information provided by state officials over the last several days suggests that we may have reached the peak of COVID-19 infections in our area. Our own experience is that the number of new COVID-19 admissions to our hospitals has started to slow.

We are cautiously optimistic that the worst days for this pandemic may be behind us. But that doesn't mean there aren't still challenging days ahead.

There are still many people in our community who will contract this disease and need care. The social distancing measures put in place appear to have the effect for which we hoped. But the intent was never to completely stop the spread of infection – it was to slow its spread so hospitals would not become overwhelmed. Even if current trends hold true and the numbers decrease, we still have weeks, or perhaps months, ahead of treating a significant number of COVID-19 patients.

So I am optimistic that all the steps we've taken – conserving PPE, creating new bed capacity, implementing visitor restrictions and more – have accomplished our goal of preparing us to maintain care for our community when it has needed us most.

But I also want to urge continued vigilance. We still have a way to go, both in continuing to treat these patients and in helping our region recover from the financial implications of this pandemic.

So please, continue to be extremely mindful of all of our PPE guidelines. Continue to urge social distancing with your friends and family. And continue to practice common-sense safety and awareness around our facilities and in your communities.

You may have seen news reports this morning of an incident in which Tulane University School of Medicine students were involved in an altercation near our facility. Please remember that Tulane University Police Department officers will provide an escort to any staff staying at the Jung Hotel – just call dispatch at (504) 988-5531. And don't forget to download and use the Live Safe app to quickly share information with – or request help from – our security team. Details can be found on the **attached flier**.

There is light at the end of this tunnel, my friends. Thank you, as always, for all you do.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robert Lynch

CEO

Tulane Health System