



Dear Tulane Health System colleagues,

I know we all face fears and uncertainties in times like these. One thing that helps me maintain perspective is to be intentional in recognizing the things for which I am grateful, especially when managing through a challenging season.

First and foremost, I'm thankful for all of you. Our frontline staff, our nurses, our respiratory therapists and others are selflessly caring for patients in new and stressful conditions. Our support teams are being stretched and challenged in ways we never anticipated.

In light of this, representatives from the Employee Assistance Program's Beacon Wellbeing counseling service will be available in Tulane Medical Center's Room 7801 (the large conference room on the seventh floor) today and tomorrow, March 30 and 31, from 2-4 p.m. and 8-10 p.m. No appointment is necessary for this free, confidential service to help talk through the stress and anxiety a public health crisis like this can create.

I am also grateful for our physicians, who are leading, collaborating and sacrificing in a manner reminiscent of Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath – a comparison none of us take lightly.

It should be noted that today is National Doctor's Day. While we are rescheduling our usual celebrations for obvious reasons, please take a moment to recognize and thank the physicians in our lives.

Also, I am appreciative to be a part of the larger HCA Healthcare family. In addition to providing us with resources and guidance that is helping us maintain the critical PPE and equipment we need to treat the COVID-19 outbreak in our community, we are soon receiving additional support from our sister facilities in our division.

Several ICU nurses from hospitals in the Kansas City market of our HCA MidAmerica Division have volunteered to join us at Tulane and lend their skills to our team. These nurses will begin arriving and working this week, providing a chance for some of our ICU nurses to take a much-needed break from a stressful environment. These volunteer nurses will also provide us time to train other members of our nursing staff to care for COVID-19 patients, as that need is likely to grow in coming days and weeks. These nurses are not replacing or displacing any current staff – simply put, we need all the help we can get.

I am thankful for these brave volunteers, who are leaving their family and friends to come where the need is greatest. Please join me in welcoming them to Tulane Health System.

And please also join me in reflecting on our blessings. We have challenges, yes. So, too, do we have HCA's support, each other – and hope for better days ahead.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robert Lynch

CEO

Tulane Health System