

05/05/2020

Sent on behalf of Dr. Robert Lynch, CEO, Tulane Health System

Dear Tulane Health System colleagues,

I've celebrated many National Nurses Weeks and National Hospital Weeks in my career. It's important that we set aside time to truly recognize and honor the many people who have dedicated their lives to serve the health needs of others.

They are always important weeks. But these – National Nurses Week officially begins tomorrow, and National Hospital Week starts on Sunday – are special.

Not in recent memory have our teams been challenged as they have through the COVID-19 pandemic. There have been long hours and quickly changing policies as we adapted to meet our communities' needs. And this was done against a backdrop of stay-at-home orders and economic fears that affected our home lives, too.

But you've risen to that challenge. You've saved hundreds of lives. You've been a source of pride and inspiration to a community that is scared and unsure.

Sometimes, it feels like National Nurses Week and National Hospital Week are simply internal celebrations. But not this year. This year, our community – our nation as a whole – is recognizing your heroism.

From donated meals, to notes and cards sent from all over the country, to flyovers from our armed forces, you are being honored. And rightly so.

We are still in the midst of a pandemic, and our region remains one of the COVID-19 hotspots. While the numbers are steadily improving, we still must practice the policies that helped flatten that curve, including social distancing and limiting gatherings. Those policies, while necessary, also will force us to postpone some of the traditional celebrations we plan for this time of year.

We'll have those celebrations as soon as it's safe to do so. For now, please accept my thanks on behalf of a very grateful community. The work we do is a calling. Thank you – now more than ever – for answering that call.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robert Lynch

CEO

Tulane Health System