



NANCY VANDERMEER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 70TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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Statement on Recent Conversation with Local Hospital Administrators

Local residents should never hesitate to seek emergency care if they are experiencing symptoms

Tomah, WI – After a recent conversation with local hospital administrators from throughout the 70th Assembly District, Representative Nancy VanderMeer (R-Tomah), released the following statement:

“I’m pleased to have had the opportunity to hear from and speak with local hospital administrators last week on a joint call hosted by the Wisconsin Hospital Association. This was a good addition to the increased regular conversations I’ve been engaged in with local healthcare and administrative personnel since the public health emergency began. Senator Patrick Testin (R-Stevens Point), Representative Scott Krug (R-Nekoosa), and Representative Katrina Shankland (D-Stevens Point) also had the opportunity to join the virtual meeting and it was good to hear from them as well because from a legislative perspective and otherwise, we share many of the same concerns.

“I want to make sure that local residents know that Wisconsin hospitals encourage patients to use the emergency department or urgent care if they feel it necessary. Patients should never hesitate to seek emergency care if they are experiencing symptoms. Our state’s hospitals and clinics are safe, clean, and taking all necessary precautions to care for patients and their families. Additionally, it’s important to note that many hospitals and providers throughout the state and throughout our part of the state are now taking steps to safely phase back into providing care to other non-emergency care patients, if they haven’t done so already. If you have a question about access to care you need, please don’t hesitate to contact your local healthcare provider.”

Per background information provided by the Wisconsin Hospital Association (WHA):

As hospitals have heeded the request of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to postpone non-emergency procedures due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they have always been (and remain) open for emergency and urgent care. Many hospitals and providers are now taking steps to safely phase back into providing other non-emergency care to patients, as well.

On March 18, hospitals across the country were asked by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services ([see press release here](#)) to delay patient procedures during the 2019 coronavirus outbreak. CMS stated this was necessary to preserve personal protective equipment and prevent further spread of the virus. On April 19, [CMS issued guidance](#) to hospitals looking to provide essential non-COVID-19 care to patients in regions with low and stable incidence of COVID-19.

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The 70th Assembly District includes portions of Monroe, Jackson, Portage and Wood counties