

October 2, 2020

A letter to our elected officials and the community,

As physicians on the front lines, facing COVID-19 and caring for the citizens of your communities, we are deeply troubled by the surge in cases in our region.

What is even more disturbing is the tripling of COVID-19-related hospitalizations since the beginning of September in our Green Bay hospitals.

To say that providing care to these patients is severely straining our local hospitals, health care workers and health systems is a drastic understatement. There is no other way to say it: we are overwhelmed.

We are heavily involved in caring for COVID-19 patients and equally invested in keeping our fellow health care workers safe. After 6 months of fighting this pandemic, we know what works to curb the spread of this virus and what will lessen the burden of COVID-19 in our community.

This is not rocket science, but this IS real science that has been proven in communities throughout the world as they have learned how to successfully conduct business and life in the presence of COVID-19.

These *simple* measures include:

- Keeping a distance of greater than 6 feet from others
- Wearing masks when outside your home and around other people
- Avoiding ANY gatherings, including family events, where physical distancing and masking are not strictly being practiced
- Staying home when not feeling well
- Abiding by a 14-day quarantine after contact with someone who has COVID-19
- Washing hands frequently – especially after touching shared surfaces, before touching your face, before eating and drinking, and upon leaving a public area

We implore you to promote, facilitate and encourage these behaviors in our community. The ongoing reckless disregard of these basic public health measures is threatening the viability of our local businesses, education of our children, and provision of medical care to everyone in Northeast Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ashok Rai', with a small flourish at the end.

Ashok Rai, MD
President & CEO
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