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A LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY: **Your Local Hospitals' Wish This Holiday**

To the patients, families and communities we are proud to serve —

It's us, your Green Bay hospitals. It's the midwife who delivered your baby, the emergency doc who treated your father's heart attack, the nurse who held your sister's hand as she died too young of COVID-19. It's the respiratory therapist who will spend Christmas with your husband — or maybe you — when all anyone wants to do is be at home, celebrating with their loved ones.

We know you're sick of COVID-19 — believe us when we say that we are, too. You're sick of being told to get vaccinated, get boosted, wear your mask and avoid big crowds. We know you are tired of hearing about the surge and what you need to do to protect yourselves. You're tired of shows and events being cancelled. You just want to get back to a normal life.

But, we know we have to keep trying. Because we know we'll be spending Christmas remembering those we cared for who didn't make it. Supporting those who should be kicking back with a glass of eggnog or enjoying a warm fire with friends and family, not spending the holidays alone in the hospital. Wishing with all our might we could provide some relief to the emergency patient who didn't think it could happen to them — and who wants nothing more than to turn back time and take the vaccine that could have saved them from being wheeled through our doors.

Our wish this holiday is simple — please think twice. Do just one thing, take one more step to protect yourself and those around you. Don't look back on this moment and think “if only.” If only I had stayed home when I was ill. If only I had worn a mask in crowded indoor areas.

We're tired, but we're not going anywhere. We're here to treat you, support you and give you the very best of ourselves, whatever may come. But we need your help to keep our families and communities safe. We need your help to make this a season of festive celebration, rather than profound regret. And we know it's not too late.

Please get vaccinated. Please get boosted. Please get tested. And please mask when you should.

Sincerely,
Aurora BayCare Medical Center
Bellin Hospital
HSHS St. Vincent Hospital
HSHS St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center