

The following is a message from Massachusetts Health & Hospital Association (MHA) regarding the coordination between the healthcare sector and hospitality community:

Dear Leaders of hospitality and lodging organizations:

As you are no doubt aware, we are all facing tremendous challenges to respond to the growing Covid-19 situation. Your organizations may have underutilized space and workforce which could be leveraged to support nurses, doctors, healthcare staff and first responders who, because of their service, are unable to return home. My team at the Massachusetts Health & Hospital Association (MHA) has been asked to create a resource for connecting hotels and motels in Massachusetts to hospitals. MHA's members include nearly every hospital system and independent hospitals in the Commonwealth along with numerous large physician organizations and other organizations involved in local healthcare – who all share a mission of caring for the health of patients and families in Massachusetts.

We are beginning to share with hospitals, contact information for those hotel/motel managers across Massachusetts who are willing and have authority to work directly with local hospitals towards this end. We will also share approximate capacity in terms of number of rooms, and ballpark rate information (exclusive of taxes, additional or variable service levels etc.). You can no doubt understand the constraints hospitals are facing to source additional staff, supplies and equipment - as you also face financial concerns arising from Covid-19 - so we hope you would be willing to consider offering discounted rates that could fill your rooms while helping out those on the front lines.

The first priority is to assist healthcare providers. In addition, hospitals must also prepare for the possibility that they might need beds and rooms to care for patients with other conditions, while keeping them segregated from exposure to infected patients. So, if you'd be willing to consider offering your facilities to help those patients, we would also like to be able to communicate that information, but can specify this is for healthcare staff and first responders only.

Obviously this is a complex and fluid situation. I would appreciate any insight and assistance you can provide. We are all in this together for the good of our families, staff, communities and visitors. Thanks so much for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Patty J. Crowley, CAE
Vice President, Governance & Member Relations
Massachusetts Health & Hospital Association

