



**CITY OF PAWTUCKET
MAYOR'S OFFICE**



**CITY OF CENTRAL FALLS
MAYOR'S OFFICE**

March 30, 2020

James E. Fanale, MD
President and CEO

Charles R. Reppucci
Chair of the Board

Care New England
45 Willard Ave.
Providence, RI 02905

To President Fanale, Chair Reppucci and members of the board:

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has been rapidly spreading across the country, state, and our communities. These are unchartered territories. We truly commend the tremendous work being done by Governor Raimondo and the Rhode Island Department of Health to lead the response against COVID-19 across the state. However, we need your help for the safety and wellbeing of our communities.

On behalf of the residents of Pawtucket, Central Falls and the Blackstone Valley, we are writing to you to request that you as the owner of the Memorial Hospital campus assist the State and our communities by re-opening the shuttered Memorial Hospital to provide all essential services to support our communities during this crisis. The State's needs are great, especially in the Blackstone Valley for a testing site, respiratory and an isolation center. A commitment from Care New England (CNE) along with your equipment and capacity would assist the communities during these challenging times. This is a true opportunity for CNE to prove that the needs outweigh the finances. In light of the decision to close Memorial Hospital and eliminate essential medical services for our residents, you have an obligation to these communities.

The Cities know that, through the recent Federal CARES Act, there is a Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund. The legislation is making available \$100 billion to reimburse eligible health care providers for health care-related expenses or lost revenues not otherwise reimbursed that are directly attributable to COVID-19. CNE is a non-profit operation so this organization would fall in line with this funding. Here, you have the opportunity to make good on the residents and our State.

If there is anything we can do to help facilitate having the Memorial Hospital site provide essential services, please let us know. Our administrations are prepared to provide whatever assistance is necessary.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to hearing back from you soon as possible, as we all understand the urgency of this request.

Sincerely,



Donald R. Grebien
Mayor, Pawtucket



James A. Diossa
Mayor, Central Falls

Cc: The Honorable Gina M. Raimondo, Governor of the State of Rhode Island
Director Nicole Anderson Scott, M.D., Rhode Island Department of Health
Colonel Andrew J. Chevalier, Rhode Island National Guard
Marc R. Pappas, Director R.I. Emergency
The Honorable Jack F. Reed, U.S. Senator of R.I.
The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse, Senator of R.I.
The Honorable David Cicilline, U.S. Representative of R.I.
The Honorable James R. Langevin, U.S. Representative of R.I.
The Pawtucket City Council
The Central Falls City Council