

Supporting Hospitals in a Time of Crisis

IHF Statement in recognition of hospitals facing COVID-19

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, people are requested to remain at home and limit their social interactions to minimize the risk of coronavirus transmission. Yet, for those who provide healthcare services to our communities, staying home is not an option. Overcoming the coronavirus crisis depends on the selflessness of our healthcare providers to keep working and their institutions, hospitals, are at the centre of the fight to save lives.

The International Hospital Federation (IHF), the global non-governmental body representing hospitals and health systems, wishes to recognize the critical role hospitals had in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Hospitals around the world have played a vital role in reducing the devastating impacts felt by COVID-19, as their staff work tirelessly to save lives during this rapidly evolving global health challenge.

However, challenges presented by the coronavirus crisis are far from over. Hospitals and health systems need to continue to care for new COVID-19 patients and healthcare personnel are still under great strain as we move into the second year for of the pandemic.

On behalf of the IHF community, we stand in solidarity with healthcare providers and express our deepest gratitude for their tremendous commitment, dedication, and professionalism during this difficult period.

At the IHF, we are committed to supporting hospitals and health systems overcome the pandemic and prepare for a post-COVID-19 environment. The coronavirus crisis has sparked many inspirational examples of hospitals implementing new practices and innovations “beyond the call of duty”, which will have lasting benefits for patients, healthcare professionals and their local communities. IHF is promoting the 15th of December to be a day to recognize all hospitals and their staffs for their selfless dedication in the fight against COVID-19.

The importance of the global healthcare community coming together in recognition of healthcare providers, is explained by the IHF CEO, Ronald Lavater: *“COVID-19 took the hospital industry by storm and forced us to rethink and reshape almost everything that we do. However, hospitals and their dedicated staffs have risen to the challenge under extreme circumstances and demonstrated the highest commitment to their patients and communities. We are encouraging all our IHF members and partners to use the 15th of December as a common day to honor hospitals and their teams who worked endless hours and faced physical and mental exhaustion for most of this year in the fight against COVID-19”.*

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