

April 14, 2020



Letter from Dean Reece to FPI Patients



E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA

Dear University of Maryland Medicine Patient:

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed many aspects of our lives, from the way we shop and eat to how we connect with family and friends. While the virus itself has had strong and sometimes devastating effects on our community, the fear of its potential impact continues to influence responses and even cripple thoughts and actions.

Our health professionals at University of Maryland Medicine understand and empathize with these difficulties. We want you to know that the novel coronavirus has not changed *everything*. It has not changed our commitment to high-quality patient care, because our institution is not governed by fear. We were founded on a deep need to serve the health needs of residents and neighbors, so we will naturally continue to do so. Our mission remains to improve the health of the citizens of Maryland and beyond.

We have taken significant steps to provide special care for our patients at this challenging time. We are currently expanding our use and conservation of Personal Protection Equipment (PPEs), such as medical face masks, shields, goggles and N95 respirators, and

are now implementing a "Universal Masking" policy for all of our health employees. As we prepare for an anticipated surge in the coming weeks, we are working with Johns Hopkins Medicine to convert 100,000 square feet of space in the Baltimore Convention Center into a field hospital facility. Our faculty is expanding telehealth services to ensure that all individuals can access certain health care services at home. We are now providing in-house testing for COVID-19 in five of our system hospitals, including the University of Maryland Medical Center.



Governor Hogan & Dr. David Marcozzi

As you know, the foundation of serving our patients is research and discovery. The physicians and scientists of the University of Maryland School of Medicine have been working around the clock on a number of new initiatives, including: research on testing potential new therapies to treat COVID-19; leading a team working with the National Institutes of Health to test vaccines and therapies at sites across the country, including our own campus; creating a novel process to dramatically increase the volume of Coronavirus testing; and serving on Governor Hogan's COVID-19 response taskforce, responsible with guiding the citizens of Maryland in this public health crisis.

Our team will not slow down in the race against time to provide the many solutions to our community and nation that are in high demand all over the world.

We thank you for all the support you have shown us in the past, and for the support you continue to provide. We are in this crisis together, and we will emerge together, healthier and stronger than ever.



Sincerely yours,

E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA

Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs, UM Baltimore

John Z. and Akiko K. Bowers Distinguished Professor

Dean, University of Maryland School of Medicine