



Advancing Health in America

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Community Health Improvement Week:

We're all in this together, and we need each other to keep moving forward

By Nancy Myers

As American Hospital Association members have long known, effectively addressing health equity means that health care providers, public health departments and community service providers must coordinate their efforts. When strategically combining their unique strengths and assets, these organizations can develop more comprehensive solutions that meet the social needs of individuals and close gaps in community health and well-being.

The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed health inequalities that have existed for years across the country. And we're seeing hospitals and community-based organizations rise to the occasion by collaborating to meet the social needs of our most vulnerable populations and deliver preventive and chronic care services.

Now more than ever, we know that health care providers must lean on their community partners and create new partnerships to advance their strategic priorities for the health and well-being of their communities. They must nimbly pivot from current plans and projects toward emergency management situations, and continually communicate with each other and the public.

Doing it effectively isn't easy. But if we collaborate and cooperate as one voice at the table, we will find the path forward from COVID-19 relief to recovery and rebuilding and get through this crisis the best we can.

Working with national public health partners and local social service providers for decades, AHA has continually shown why and how cross-sector partnerships are important. Yet during this current crisis and its demand for immediate responses to meet urgent community health needs, it's the "how-to" that matters most for cities and communities across the country grappling with the virus.

As we celebrate Community Health Improvement Week, we are pleased to bring you leading expert insights, reports, tools and other resources designed to connect, engage and improve hospital and community partnerships. We also are proud to share stories on the ways hospitals and communities are coming together during these challenging times and making a significant, positive impact.

We are committed to supporting our hospital members and the communities they serve, and I encourage you not only to take advantage of our project offerings but also to reach out to us with feedback or information you'd like us to share.

Thank you for celebrating Community Improvement Health Week with us and working so hard to help all people live healthy and happy lives.