



May 7, 2020

The Honorable JB Pritzker
Governor, State of Illinois
207 Statehouse
Springfield, IL 62706

The Honorable Kim Reynolds
Governor, State of Iowa
1007 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Governor Pritzker and Governor Reynolds,

Thank you for your continued leadership during these uncertain and extremely challenging times. You've each identified helpful paths to protect public health while also reopening businesses and restoring important economic activity in Illinois and Iowa. While located in two states, the Quad Cities is one regional economy. We ask for your assistance and partnership to provide a consistent strategy to reopen our economy at the same time. This is critically important to our public's safety and economic recovery.

We continue to advocate for a safe, responsible and timely reopening in accordance with CDC and health official guidelines. We also believe a phased-in approach, as well as a regional approach, are valid points to consider and appreciate you including this in your plans. There are a few additional areas to bring to your attention:

- 1) **Ensure we are in this together.** The Quad Cities has worked hard to think, plan and act as one region. Through this pandemic our region has rallied together, regardless of state borders, to protect the health and livelihood of area residents. A QC COVID-19 Coalition of public/private community leadership has been working tirelessly to serve as a comprehensive resource for our citizens. As states set reopening criteria, we need your help to ensure we set consistent guidelines to eliminate confusion and barriers that may prevent some residents, businesses and communities from regaining their economic livelihood.
- 2) **Reopen in a timely manner.** While Iowa and Illinois are using slightly different metrics to decide when it is safe to reopen, we believe it should be on the same timeline. We encourage Illinois and Iowa to use 14 days as the measurement period as recommended by the President's Coronavirus Task Force, instead of 28 days.
- 3) **Allow more businesses to reopen sooner.** We understand the need to continue social distancing protocols including limiting gatherings and large events. We ask that you enable all businesses, including restaurants and bars, to reopen with appropriate capacity restrictions in your next phase. In Iowa we support this in Phase 1; in Illinois we support this in Phase 3.



- 4) **Help businesses source non-medical PPE supplies.** As businesses look to reopen, we are hearing challenges securing necessary PPE, including disinfectant, gloves and masks. Many of our area's businesses generously donated their PPE supply to area health care workers to help flatten the curve. We ask for Iowa and Illinois' assistance to help source PPE to avoid price gouging, supply chain and unnecessary issues that may cause a delay in businesses reopening responsibly.

- 5) **Increase testing.** Thanks to your initiatives we are seeing an increase of testing throughout Illinois and Iowa, including the Quad Cities region. We support your efforts and ask for your continued help with testing and contact tracing.

We believe it is possible for businesses to develop a responsible plan consistent with health guidelines to protect their employees and customers. In a recent survey of Quad Cities businesses:

- 80% of our businesses are open in some capacity. We believe all businesses should be able to reopen with health guidelines.
- 3 out of 4 closed businesses believe they should be able to reopen.
- 86% of our members have a plan in place to reopen, and 88% of those plans include new safety measures.

We look forward to working with you to continue combating the current health and economic crisis. Thank you again for your dedicated leadership on behalf of Iowa, Illinois and the Quad Cities region.

Sincerely,

Paul Rumler, President and CEO, Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce
Matthew Carter, Mayor, City of Silvis
Doug Cropper, President and CEO, Genesis Health System
Robert Erickson, President and CEO, Unity Point Health- Trinity
Dave Herrell, President and CEO, Visit Quad Cities
Mike Thoms, Mayor, City of Rock Island