



Association of
Washington Public Hospital Districts

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March 30, 2020

RE: Property Tax Delays

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for your efforts during this very challenging time. As I am sure that you are aware this is an unprecedented time for our Public Hospital Districts (PHDs). Not only are our hospitals working overtime during this crisis, but the recent restrictions on our hospitals on top of the extraordinary demands of meeting CPOVID-19 needs have placed many hospitals in financial peril.

Many counties in Washington are considering offering deadline extensions to property tax payments due in April. I would ask that you carefully reconsider this action and its effects. For so many front-line hospitals this tax revenue serves as its sole source of cash flow during this crisis, on top of the only financial source to make scheduled bond payments. A delay in the collection of property taxes may have a devastating result for many Public Hospital Districts at this critical time of crisis.

I strongly urge you NOT to delay the collection of those property taxes that are keeping your local, community owned hospitals open. If you do so choose to delay the collection, please consider holding public hospital financially harmless during this time.

I ask that you reach out to your public hospital superintendent and discuss ways that you can assist them in keeping the hospital doors open in the absence of the property tax funds. Of course, you may contact me at AWPHD to discuss further.

Your consideration and support are greatly appreciated

Regards,

Matthew Ellsworth
Executive Director