To: Ken McFarland, CEO
        Fountain Valley Regional Medical Center
        11100-11190 Warner Avenue
        Fountain Valley CA 92708

From: Barbara Lewis, Hospital Division Director
        National Union of Healthcare Workers

June 29, 2020

Dear Mr. McFarland:

I am writing to bring your attention to an urgent matter that risks the potential spread of COVID-19 to workers and patients at Fountain Valley Regional Medical Center. We are requesting that Tenet Healthcare immediately implement several infection and source-control best practices at Fountain Valley that are listed below. With the number of Covid cases and hospitalizations suddenly surging throughout Southern California and many other parts of the country, it is clear that Tenet cannot adequately safeguard caregivers and patients without adopting safety protocols that go beyond the minimal federally-required standards.

Since March, we have communicated our concerns both verbally and in writing about lax infection controls, insufficient PPE, and inadequate testing of workers at Fountain Valley. Now, as COVID cases are beginning to spike in Southern California, your refusal to address our concerns has put caregivers and patients at unnecessary risk of exposure.

Over the past month, the number of COVID-positive patients at Fountain Valley has increased. As of today there are a total of 65 patients under investigation or positive for COVID. Rather than adequately staff the hospital, management has forced certified nursing assistants to care for up to eight COVID-positive patients at a time. Caregivers have been ordered to work even after being exposed to COVID-positive patients without having appropriate PPE.

The following are clear examples of best practices that Fountain Valley has refused to adopt:

1. Fountain Valley is not testing all newly admitted patients nor is it treating untested patients as patients under investigation (PUIs).

2. Managers are assigning nursing assistants to care for both COVID-positive and non-COVID patients during the same shift, thereby risking the spread of the virus among patients and staff within the hospital.

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3.   The hospital is refusing to test its workers for COVID, even those who are documented to have been potentially exposed to the coronavirus during their work duties.

4.   Many caregivers who have been potentially exposed to COVID are being required to continue working.

Because of Fountain Valley's failure to adopt best practices for limiting the spread of COVID within the hospital, six healthcare workers last week were either hospitalized or quarantined because of exposures that were easily avoidable. See the attached document for a list of several detailed instances in which Fountain Valley failed to provide adequate protection for caregivers and patients.

We are concerned that the inadequate COVID infection protocols at Fountain Valley are emblematic of a corporate-level failure at Tenet to protect workers and patients from contracting the virus. Tenet was not ready for this pandemic in March, and it is still unprepared and ill equipped to safely address it today.

We are calling on you to immediately implement the following safety protocols at Fountain Valley:

1.   Provide free testing for all employees.

2.   Test all patients who are admitted to the hospital and treat all patients awaiting COVID test results as PUIs with dedicated staff that is only caring for PUIs.

3.   Ensure that all employees who are in contact with patients are provided with N95 masks, goggles and gowns.

4.   Quarantine, test, and provide paid administrative leave to all employees who have been potentially exposed to the coronavirus.

We await your response as to whether you will implement these structural changes.

Barbara Lewis, Southern California Hospital Division Director
National Union of Healthcare Workers

Cc: Fountain Valley Board of Directors
    NUHW Members