Dear Team Member,

The last six weeks have been an unprecedented time at Phelps, Northwell Health and our nation. Since caring for our first COVID+ patient on March 8th, 2020 until today, you have exhibited courage, compassion, resilience, teamwork, innovation and true heroism. You have collaboratively been able to discharge over 240 COVID+ patients, assisted in the extubation of 18 patients, and accepted numerous transfers from other Northwell facilities when they could not care for them.

Amid much success, there have also been many sad moments and personal grief. We know each of you have been personally impacted by this pandemic. We are grateful to each of you for the individual sacrifices you have made. Even in light of small celebratory moments, it does not seem appropriate at this time, to celebrate National Nurses Week themed, "The Year of the Nurse" and Hospital Week themed "# MyHospital".

We have decided to delay the activities surrounding Nurses and Hospital Week 2020 to the fall when we can truly celebrate you, our health care heroes! During the actual Nurses and Hospital Week in May, we will plan some department based activities and reserve our larger celebrations and self-care activities for the fall.

We know each of you will support this decision and we look forward to celebrating with you in the fall.

In gratitude, Eileen Egan, RN, Esq. Interim Executive Director

Mary McDermott, MSN, RN, APRN, NEA-BC Senior Vice President, Patient Care Services/CNO

Richard Mellor Associate Executive Director, Human Resources