Health Care Workers Face Layoffs, Furloughs, Pay Cuts as Hospital Losses from COVID-19 Pile Up

California hospitals’ ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic has led to nearly $14 billion in short-term losses. Now, as hospitals maintain readiness through the summer and into the flu season, nurses and other health care workers are experiencing layoffs, furloughs, and pay cuts.

A Citing a projected $100 million revenue shortfall from March through June, Eisenhower Health in Rancho Mirage has furloughed 30 to 35 employees and partially furloughed others with reduced hours.

B Palomar Health in San Diego County has eliminated 317 positions — about 5% of its workforce. The three-hospital system saw a 45%-50% decrease in patient visits, resulting in an operating loss of more than $15 million during the first six weeks of the pandemic.

C Adventist Health has reduced its workforce by the equivalent of 1,000 full-time employees across California, including more than 200 in Tulare, Kings and Fresno counties.

D Mad River Community Hospital in Humboldt County has furloughed over 100 staff members due to a 50% drop in revenue. The hospital has yet to admit a single COVID-19 patient.

E In King City, Mee Memorial Hospital has instituted a number of cost-cutting efforts, including layoffs of 55 staff members, salary reductions, and suspension of selected specialty services.

F Tri-City Medical Center in Oceanside has 112 participants in a voluntary furlough program, which represents a large majority of the total furlough program of 144.

G In Fresno, Saint Agnes Medical Center has furloughed 175 employees. The hospital said it has seen a large drop in the number of elective surgeries and emergency room visits during the pandemic.

H Desert Regional Medical Center in Palm Springs furloughed a small percentage of employees related to the temporary suspension or ramping down of certain hospital units that were not providing COVID-19 care.

I In Chico, Enloe Medical Center has reported a daily operating loss of $300,000 as a result of COVID-19 preparations.

J In Imperial County, Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District has reported a 40% decrease in revenues, with CARES Act funding falling well short in replacing this loss.