

Dear Neighbors,

It's that time of year when "no room in the inn" touches many of our hearts. Unfortunately for many in our region, it's hitting too close to home.



People in need of emergency or specialty care are experiencing hospitals that are near capacity, where almost 80% of hospitalized and ICU patients are unvaccinated from COVID-19.



Students are facing the possibility of being sent home from school to quarantine.



Business owners need to balance creating safe environments while serving customers in this new environment.



Each of us is trying our best to cope with increased and prolonged stress and uncertainty in nearly every aspect of our lives due to the ongoing pandemic.

Amid sluggish vaccination rates, surging COVID-19 cases, worrisome variants and the onset of another pandemic winter, **we need to embrace the holiday spirit and protect ourselves, our loved ones and our communities.**

After nearly two years of cautious living, we all have the desire to return to "normal". We hope we will find encouragement in the fact that **we have the tools to push back against another surge** and close the gap between today and when we can return to "normal" life with safety and confidence.

**Join us in choosing some of the many ways to Be Safe this holiday season.**

This is about people. Our friends, families, neighbors, colleagues and others who need our help.

**Will you help us Be Safe this holiday season and ensure there is room in the inn for those who need it?**

Happy Holidays,

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President and CEO  
ThedaCare

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District Administrator  
Seymour Community School District

**Becky Bartoszek**  
President and CEO  
Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce

**Dr. Judith M. Baseman**  
District Administrator  
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Library Director  
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**Tim Cody**  
President  
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Winnebago County Public Health

**Kristine Hutter**  
Public Health Director/Health Officer  
City of Menasha Health Department

**Sonja Jensen**  
Interim Health Officer  
City of Appleton Health Department

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Menasha Corporation

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Winneconne Community School District

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Boys & Girls Clubs of the Fox Valley

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City of Oshkosh

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District Administrator  
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CEO  
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Optometrist  
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District Administrator  
Menasha Joint School District

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Public Health Officer/Manager  
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Executive Director  
Mosaic Family Health

**Chip Wood**  
Executive Director  
Rebuilding Together Fox Valley

**Get a COVID-19 vaccine if you haven't already.**

- All Wisconsinites 5+ are eligible and vaccines are our best approach to ensure access to care, keep kids in schools and keep businesses open.
- More than 3 million Wisconsinites and 200 million Americans have been fully vaccinated, and the vast majority of COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths continue to be among the unvaccinated.
- Local health care providers and pharmacies are offering a variety of easy scheduling options for the vaccine, including walk-in.

**Get a COVID-19 booster when you're eligible.**

- All Wisconsinites 16+ who have been **fully vaccinated for more than 6 months, with the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine**, are strongly encouraged to receive a COVID-19 booster.
- All Wisconsinites 18+ who have been **fully vaccinated for more than 2 months with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine** are strongly encouraged to receive a booster.

**Stop COVID-19's ability to move through our communities.**

- Vaccines are available for everyone age 5+ and everyone can Be Safe.
- We know face coverings, physical distancing, flu shots and limiting opportunities for illness of all kinds to spread makes a difference in fighting COVID-19.
- Communicate expectations in invitations ahead of time and enforce masking indoors when vaccine status of all attendees is unknown, to create the safest environment.