

Despite the fact that RRH has already incurred several million dollars in expenses based on the union's strike notice, we informed RUNAP that we needed to hear by 9:00 AM today, July 28, whether the union was willing to officially cancel the strike and commit to no strikes for 90-days while we work together to try to reach a deal. We told the union that if it makes this commitment, RGH would cancel the replacement workers and commit to meet on multiple days next week to try and reach an agreement (since RGH would no longer need to use that time for strike preparation).

Unfortunately, the union decided not to cancel the strike. This is extremely disappointing. Some of the content in their recent public communications, suggests they don't have broad support for a strike. In fact, barely half of the RUNAP-represented nurses voted in favor of a strike. And this aligns with what we have been hearing, which is that a large and growing number of nurses do not plan to strike.

After the union set the strike authorization vote and almost immediately followed up with strike dates, RRH began to incur substantial costs to recruit replacement nurses so we can adequately care for our community. These are expenses that now cannot be used to invest in our employees, our facilities or our community.

While this is an unfortunate development, we are fully prepared to continue caring for the community if the strike takes place. It's always up to the union on whether or not they strike and they could still decide to cancel any time before the strike is set to begin. By that point, we would have incurred the vast majority of the millions of dollars it would cost us to prepare for a strike.

Despite this setback, patients with planned procedures, treatments and exams should plan to visit RGH at their scheduled appointment and should expect to receive the excellent care they have come to expect. In addition, any patient requiring use of RGH's Emergency Department should continue to do so.

While we remain disappointed with RUNAP's stated intention to go forward with the strike, we hope to meet frequently with the union to reach a deal and if both sides focus on negotiating all the open issues, we are confident we can finalize terms for a contract.