

Dear Colleagues,

Earlier today, Partners HealthCare, Brigham Health, Massachusetts General Hospital, and Spaulding Rehabilitation Network joined with leaders from across the region to launch the [Massachusetts United for Puerto Rico/Massachusetts Unido por Puerto Rico](#) fund which is currently accepting donations to support those impacted by the Hurricane Maria's devastating effects. Additionally, four staff members from the Partners HealthCare system have been deployed with federal teams to support on the ground medical missions. Another team of five clinicians have deployed at the request of the Pan American Health Organization to provide dialysis care in the capital city of the island of Dominica which was also devastated by Maria. These are just the most recent of more than 50 members of the Partners system who have traveled to support disaster responses since Hurricane Harvey hit in late August. Thank you to these staff and their colleagues and department and institution leadership who make it possible for them to serve.

We know many individuals still have not had contact with their loved ones. The American Red Cross is working with amateur radio operators and emergency shelter staff to populate the **Safe and Well database** (<https://safeandwell.communityos.org/cms/index.php>) with status information from friends and relatives in Puerto Rico and other affected areas. Additional means for contacting loved ones are on the [Employee Assistance Program](#) website.

For those wanting to help, the best way to help continues to be with a monetary donation to an established relief organization capable of not only getting relief supplies to Puerto Rico but also around the island. We recommend the following:

- **Massachusetts United for Puerto Rico/Massachusetts Unido por Puerto Rico** (<http://www.tbf.org/puertorico>). Housed at the Boston Foundation (and mentioned above), this fund will have no administrative costs and will partner with capable charities providing support on the ground.
- **Direct Relief** ([www.directrelief.org](http://www.directrelief.org)) is working with the Puerto Rico Ministry of Health and Puerto Rico Primary Care Association to provide essential health and medical supplies to the island. Direct Relief is an established non-profit organization with the highest possible rating on Charity Navigator. Donations can be directed to Puerto Rico or other specific disaster affected areas. 100% of donations for Hurricane Maria are currently being used for relief efforts.

Please know that the **Employee Assistance Program** (EAP) is always available to staff for support and is maintaining a list of resources which will continue to be updated. Call 1-866-724-4EAP (4327) or visit their website: [www.eap.partners.org](http://www.eap.partners.org).

Our hearts are with our community and all those affected by these terrible events. We have reached out to our Partners institutions to encourage their ingenuity in responding to and supporting employees with affected families. With input from staff directly affected, our leaders in global health, community health, supply chain, human resources, emergency preparedness, and countless others across the system continue to monitor the situation and identify ways we can provide meaningful support.

Please speak to your manager, HR business partner, Employee Assistance Program, or chaplaincy/spiritual care department for questions and support. We also ask you to share this information with colleagues who do not have access to email.

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