

**From:** [Dale Johnson](#)  
**To:** [DPH.HFSRB.PublicHearings](#)  
**Cc:** [Dale Johnson](#)  
**Subject:** [External] Mercy's Proposed Closure  
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Since the opening of Mercy Health's new facility, there has been a drastic overload of patients on the west side of Rockford of having to go to UW HEALTH (SwedishAmerican). During the pandemic period, those of us who have had to rely on UW HEALTH have very well been threatened with more than a disproportionate number of Covid-19 patients and with nearly 100% use of the ICU FACILITIES so for those of us with serious medical conditions there is the psychological threat that there will not be room for us when the situation calls for it. (Compare the figures with those of OSF Hospital and MERCY HEALTH with UW HEALTH.). From a geographical prospective, all three hospitals are, in reality, on the east side when, in fact, chronic illnesses per capita are higher on the west side of the Rock River than the east side. To compound the problem which may or may not be relevant to our concern here, Mercy Health is on record of limiting patients who are on Medicaid which puts a further threat to the health care systems in Rockford. It's as though Mercy is saying it does not really give a d... to the Rockford citizen as long as the top executive officer of Mercy Health gets his name on the top of buildings and can pretty well dictate his own compensation package. I really cannot say much of anything positive about Mercy as compared to earlier years when I worked there and our family members were patients there.

Sincerely,

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Sent from my iPhone