Executive Summary

COVID-19 revealed the imperative to move towards a resilient system of health where the primary focus is to predict and proactively treat illness at a community level rather than provide reactive care when an individual gets sick. By creating and utilizing interoperable health data, organizations can leverage real-time scientific insights to move towards a "learning health system" to improve overall population health and reduce the outsized health and economic impacts on vulnerable populations. COVID-19 vividly demonstrated how social determinants of health—factors beyond direct medical services that influence overall health—are linked to disparate outcomes for Black and Hispanic populations.[9] These findings emphasized the underlying need for health care payment reform as well as for cross-sector approaches to achieve a more equitable and resilient future state.

The Blueprint for Resiliency

RENEW AND SUSTAIN CONFIDENCE

As the region moves beyond pandemic, there are several near-term actions that can be taken to recover, restore confidence and bring hope for the future:

- Closely support and track the evolving science-based public health guidelines, with clear guidance from the state government

- Encourage independent validation of healthy workplaces

- Maintain regulatory flexibility that was put in place to deal with the COVID-19 emergency

- Use a data-driven approach that considers social determinants that are essential to public health

- Expand preventative care with community health hubs and other local institutions

MOVE BEYOND RECOVERY

Medium-term actions for a resilient future system of health will lay the groundwork to encourage equitable health outcomes and a better resourced health system:

- Encourage a shift to community-focused, value-based care

- Establish the basis for a learning system of health which can leverage data to learn in more real-time with real world evidence

- Encourage public-private partnerships (PPPs) to address the social determinants of health issues

- Convene a group of health care, business and government leaders to investigate the potential to improve supply chain redundancy and investigate localization as well as expand participation in group purchasing organizations to additional entities considered front line workers such as small business owners, food service and other entities vital to keep services running.

FUTURE-PROOF THE REGION

Through interviews and analyses, it became clear that achieving resiliency would need to go beyond addressing systems within the traditional health care ecosystem. Rather, it is about the different systems that support health and well-being—from business to food to job support to health care.

Leaders from the health sector should collaborate to protect against future disasters and to ensure long-term resiliency, including:

- Reform Medicaid reimbursement

- Develop regional, cross-sector strategic plans for future disruptive events

- Encourage health systems, businesses and educational institutions to leverage their "anchor institutions" status to support community investments that improve underlying social, economic and environmental factors that impact health.