

March 31, 2020

Donald Trump
The President of the United States of America
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20500

Mike Pence
The Vice President of the United States of America
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20500

Deborah Birx, M.D.
Ambassador-at-Large, and Coronavirus Response Coordinator
1800 G. Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006

Dear President Trump, Vice President Pence, and Ambassador Birx:

On behalf of the undersigned osteopathic specialty and state organizations, and the more than 151,000 osteopathic physicians and medical students we represent, thank you for the steps you have taken and will continue to take in order to protect Americans during this war against the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. During this unprecedented time, Osteopathic physicians (DOs) have remained steadfast in delivering healthcare on the frontlines in order to treat and care for patients across primary care, emergency medicine, and all medical specialty settings in every state in America. We are writing to respectfully request the Administration build on its current efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and increase access to safety equipment and medical supplies for those on the frontlines of this outbreak.

During this critical time when hospitals, healthcare facilities and physicians are being overwhelmed by increased patient populations, safety concerns, and the continued spread and increased number of people infected by COVID-19, we recognize that our nation is at a critical point in the war against COVID-19 and remain committed to patient access to care and safety. DOs are a key part of the physician workforce on the frontlines; and we believe that hand-in-hand collaboration and coordination between the Administration's Coronavirus Task Force, Congress, state and local health departments and national physician organizations is fundamental to winning this war and flattening the curve. We are working to prevent the further spread and transmission of this deadly virus by implementing and maintaining proven public health strategies and policies, such as isolation and social distancing.

One key aspect of accomplishing this goal and getting our nation back to life as normal is appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for both patients and frontline physicians and other healthcare workers during the COVID-19 outbreak. With that said, the United States is quickly exhausting our resources of PPE for these critical frontline providers. Equipment that will be needed as COVID-19 continues to spread across our nation include N95 respirators, gowns, surgical masks, eye protection, and intensive care unit (ICU) equipment. Without continuous access to these critical items, safety for both patients and providers will be greatly jeopardized, which could lead to overall worse outcomes and the continual spread of the virus. As such, we strongly urge the Administration to take additional steps to protect the people who are caring for all Americans at this critical time.

Finally, as new therapies and our understanding of the virus continue to evolve, and we begin to see a decrease in the number of new COVID-19 cases, it is paramount that the Administration continues to work in collaboration with the groups outlined above when determining whether the outbreak has reached a stage in which it is safe and appropriate to ease isolation and social distancing recommendations. If implemented correctly, we will win the war against COVID-19 in a timely manner, and will see Americans begin to reengage with society and resume normal life activities.

As these difficult decisions are being made, we look forward to continuing to work with your Administration and stand ready to be a resource to you during this challenging time so that all American have access to the highest-quality of care, in order to ultimately win the war against COVID-19. If you have questions regarding the recommendations outlined above, or if the AOA can be a resource in any way, please contact David Pugach, JD, AOA Senior Vice President of Public Policy, at DPugach@osteopathic.org or (202) 349-8753.

Sincerely,

American Osteopathic Association
Alabama Osteopathic Medical Association
American Academy of Osteopathy
American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians
American College of Osteopathic Internists
American College of Osteopathic Neurologists and Psychiatrists
American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians
American College of Osteopathic Surgeons
American Osteopathic Academy of Addiction Medicine
American Osteopathic Academy of Sports Medicine
American Osteopathic Association Prolotherapy Regenerative Medicine
American Osteopathic College of Dermatology
American Osteopathic College of Occupational and Preventive Medicine
American Osteopathic College of Radiology
American Osteopathic Society of Rheumatic Diseases
Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association

Arkansas Osteopathic Medical Association
Association of Military Osteopathic Physicians & Surgeons
Florida Osteopathic Medical Association
Georgia Osteopathic Medical Association
Idaho Osteopathic Physicians Association
Indiana Osteopathic Association
Iowa Osteopathic Medical Association
Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine
Kentucky Osteopathic Medical Association
Louisiana Osteopathic Medical Association
Maine Osteopathic Association
Michigan Osteopathic Association
Minnesota Osteopathic Medical Association
Mississippi Osteopathic Medical Association
Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons
NC Osteopathic Medical Association
New Hampshire Osteopathic Association
New Jersey Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons
New York State Osteopathic Medical Society
Ohio Osteopathic Association
Oklahoma Osteopathic Association
Osteopathic Physicians & Surgeons of California
Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of Oregon
Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association
South Carolina Osteopathic Medical Society
Tennessee Osteopathic Medical Association
Texas Osteopathic Medical Association
Washington Osteopathic Medical Association
Wisconsin Association of Osteopathic Physicians & Surgeons