



March 26, 2020

Dear Governor Wolf, Secretary Levine and Executive Director Mooney:

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians (PAFP) and our more-than 5,500 physician, resident, and student members across the Commonwealth, thank you for your continued leadership and all your efforts to protect health care providers, patients, and the public from the spread of COVID-19.

President

Tracey Conti, MD
Monroeville

President-Elect

Tiffany Leonard, MD
Willow Grove

Treasurer

Thiri Bickel, MD
Etters

Board Chair

Mary Stock Keister, MD
Fogelsville

Executive Vice President

Brent Ennis, EVP & CEO
Harrisburg

We believe Pennsylvania can be a national model for flattening the curve and slowing the rate of infection. Your action to close non-essential businesses in all counties of the state, coupled with stay-at-home guidance to all Pennsylvania counties, will protect more people from getting sick while preserving critical medical resources. Every person who stays home and avoids hospitalization is saving medical personnel, medical equipment, and hospital beds for someone else who will require care. It is important that we allow scientific data to guide easing of restrictions.

While we understand and support the critical need for a statewide stay-at-home order, Pennsylvania's family physicians also urge you to consider liquor stores as essential businesses and allow them to reopen as soon as possible, in a way that poses the least amount of risk for further spread of the virus. People suffering from alcohol dependence are likely to go through withdrawal without access. Those experiencing withdrawal will need access to counseling and medical services, utilizing health care resources that we cannot afford during this time.

Family physicians across the state are caring for their communities and helping you care for all Pennsylvanians. The full impact of a stay-at-home order is time-limited and should be extended to all counties in the Commonwealth. Please continue to take sensible and timely steps to slow the spread of COVID-19 and help preserve critical health care resources for those most in need. We urge you to take further action now before we see an additional surge of infections in Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Tracey Conti, MD
President