



Phoenix (March 19, 2020) – *The Arizona Medical Association (ArMA) has been working closely with the Arizona healthcare community and our public health agencies to assess need and impact of COVID-19. There is a current need for personal protective equipment and test collection materials across the country and in our state. While stakeholders work to address these shortages, it is imperative that the general public continue to practice appropriate hygiene and social distancing as we all play a part in flattening the curve.*

ArMA is promoting the use of telemedicine and has partnered with CompuGroup Medical to provide a free telemedicine platform to all physicians in Arizona. Whether it be utilized for general appointments or triaging potential COVID-19 patients, telemedicine will help decrease public exposure to Arizona’s most vulnerable populations.

Given the national and state resources for COVID-19 testing, clinicians are advised at this time to approach patient management in the following manner:

- *For patients presenting with mild symptoms: patients are recommended to remain at home for at least 72 hours AFTER symptoms have resolved.*
- *For patients presenting with emergent symptoms: patients will need to seek medical attention and be managed per normal respiratory illness protocol.*
- *Making clinical management decisions based solely on COVID-19 test results may not be prudent.*

ArMA would like to also commend the various city governments who have taken action to decrease the amount of potential exposure by closing restaurant dining rooms and bars, and keeping businesses open for takeout and drive through to lessen the economic impact of this critical decision. All Arizona residents should take the CDC recommendations very seriously as our healthcare personnel fight to contain COVID-19.

We are working closely with Governor Ducey’s office, the Arizona Department of Health Services, and county public health departments to continuously assess the situation and provide physician input. Arizona physicians are on the front line of this outbreak and they continue to work tirelessly to serve their patients. ArMA would like to thank all of the physicians, providers, nurses, and medical staff who are selflessly working to fight against COVID-19.

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