



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A Statement from ArMA Regarding COVID-19 Preventive Measures Everyone Must Take

June 15, 2020 (Phoenix) – As the largest organization representing physicians in Arizona, the Arizona Medical Association is dismayed by how politicized, *on all sides*, this pandemic has become. This is a critical time, and we feel it is important to speak directly to our patients, **telling you not what you want to hear, but what you need to hear to be safe, healthy, and to continue living your lives.** We do this realizing that all aspects of health need to be addressed during this pandemic, including physical, mental and economic health.

Preventive measures like wearing a cloth mask and physical distancing are among the most important things Arizonans can do to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

In response to the surging number of cases statewide, ArMA is in the midst of publishing a series of op-eds, collectively entitled “Sifting Through All The Noise About COVID-19”. These articles are intended to address common myths about COVID-19 and provide information that is backed by science and data.

The first [article](#) was published on Friday, and it highlights the connection between the breakdown in physical distancing and mask use, and the fact that Arizona recently hit its highest seven-day average of new cases since the beginning of the pandemic. This is troubling on many levels. **We have neither a comprehensive treatment plan nor a vaccine available, which leaves prevention as the most important thing we can do to protect ourselves and others.**

“ArMA understands that Governor Ducey has many factors to consider while addressing the pandemic. But as physicians, we want to ensure that public health continues to be a top priority,” said Dr. Ross Goldberg, ArMA President. “Our position continues to be that the strongest recovery from this pandemic begins with reducing spread of the virus in the community. Why? Because **this virus is real, it spreads quickly, and for some it can be deadly.**”

There has been a lot of recent discussion about hospital capacity and surge plans, but any physician will tell you – and every patient will agree – that **it is far more important to try and keep someone out of the hospital in the first place. We all have the power to do that, through the simple acts of handwashing, wearing a cloth mask in public, and observing physical distancing.** The physicians of the Arizona Medical Association implore the public: do this for your health, the health of your family, and the health of our community.

###

About Arizona Medical Association



The Arizona Medical Association (ArMA) is the largest organization in the state representing the interests of all physicians. For more than 125 years, ArMA has been advancing patient care and providing its members with leadership, advocacy, education, and networking. For more information, visit www.AZmed.org and follow ArMA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).