



March 25, 2020

The Honorable Roy Cooper  
Governor of the Great State of North Carolina  
200 North Blount Street  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601

Dear Governor Cooper,

On behalf of North Carolina's physicians, the North Carolina Medical Society (NCMS) requests that you enact an Executive Order to stop the public's in-person access to non-essential businesses for two weeks in order to limit community spread of the COVID-19 virus. By adding a date certain to the order with the opportunity for continual evaluation and review, you would have the ability to utilize data and trends presented by your expert team to determine if the order should be adjusted for the benefit of North Carolinians.

COVID-19 is a public health crisis. Health care systems, physicians and their teams are at the front lines caring for our exposed and infected citizens. Already, many are working around the clock to limit community spread, infection and deaths of North Carolinians. They often find themselves providing this care with limited personal protective equipment (PPE). We are gravely concerned about PPE availability, now and in the future as the number of infections is sure to rise, as well as access to ventilators and hospital beds. Now is the time to take decisive action to limit the spread and preserve our precious resources to fight this pandemic. If action is delayed, we fear we will not be able to handle the surge in the health care needs.

At the NCMS, we appreciate the leadership you have shown. And, we understand the many considerations and perspectives you must weigh when making a decision on this issue. There are significant ramifications for any action taken. This will immensely impact the business community, including medical practices. We will also need your continued leadership and support to improve the immediate and long-term financial stability of our medical groups and practices, including specific steps you and our General Assembly can take to stabilize this critical resource.

Thank you for your immediate consideration. We encourage decisive action to put North Carolinians back to work and health sooner, rather than later.

In closing, the physicians of North Carolina very much appreciate the hard work you, Dr. Cohen, and your entire team have committed to the pandemic and stand ready to assist you as needed.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Palmer Edwards, MD.

Palmer Edwards, MD  
President

Handwritten signature of Robert W. Seligson, MBA, MA.

Robert W. Seligson, MBA, MA  
Executive Vice President, CEO

cc: Mandy K. Cohen, MD, MPH, Secretary of the North Carolina DHHS  
Elizabeth Cuervo Tilson, MD, MPH, State Health Director and Chief Medical Officer for the NC DHHS