



June 26, 2020

Dear Governor Pritzker,

As frontline health care physicians and providers, we are proud of the progress that Illinois continues to make in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. Because of the hard work of the Pritzker administration and the people of Illinois, we are moving to phase 4, which is a significant accomplishment. With the continued promotion of social distancing, using face masks, and hand hygiene, the people of Illinois can look forward to children enjoying summer programs and returning to school with IDPH-approved safety guidance.

Although Illinois is moving forward after a consistent, steady decline of new COVID-19 cases, we have continued to see record surges in other states. On Tuesday, June 23rd, Dr. Anthony [Fauci](#) stated that certain states may want to reconsider their reopening plans given the surges in those states. At this time, states in the South and West are delaying opening to the next phase or even reverting to a previous phase. As Chicago reopens and we begin to see tourists coming into our city, and Illinoisians travelling to and from hot spots, we medical professionals are quite concerned about the risk posed by those arriving from states with high positive test rates. If left unchecked, we expect that Illinois rates will begin to climb, forcing us to move backward. We are concerned that this will jeopardize the progress we've made; a backslide will further depress Illinois' economy and will make returning to school in the fall less likely.

The state of New York, once the epicenter of the COVID-19 pandemic, has significantly improved transmission rates, as have surrounding states. To protect the progress made, New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut have issued a travel advisory for people arriving from states with high positive test rates.

We strongly advocate for a [similar travel advisory](#) ideally in coordination with neighboring states to protect Illinois and those nearby working across state lines in Indiana, Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri and Michigan. This includes:

- Issuing a travel advisory to be communicated at all major point of entry into Illinois, including on highway message boards and all Illinois airports that:
 - All travelers entering Illinois from a state with a positive test rate higher than 10 per 100,000 residents, or higher than 10% positivity rate, over a seven day rolling average, will be required to quarantine for a period of 10 days consistent with Department of Health regulations for quarantine. This includes citizens of Illinois returning from traveling from states with high positivity rates.

We also advocate for continued encouragement of mask use when outside the home. This can be done by signage, social media and media messaging, and by continuing to increase the production and distribution of masks to communities.

We applaud your commitment to following a science first approach in Illinois. The success of this strategy has allowed us to progress to the next phase. But to save the economy and the lives of the people of Illinois, we need to protect and sustain the progress that we have made. Implementation of a travel advisory that models that of New York, is the logical and necessary next step.

Frontline health care workers across Illinois thank you for your consideration and continued leadership.

Best Regards,

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