

Dear Governor Pritzker,

We are health care professionals collectively involved in preparing and executing the response to the COVID-19 pandemic at the front lines in Illinois healthcare institutions. This letter and our signatures represent our individual professional opinions regarding IMMEDIATE action that must occur to further curb the devastating impact on our hospitals, our patients, the city of Chicago, and the state of Illinois.

More is needed immediately to enforce social distancing and mitigate the spread of COVID-19. We strongly advocate that you go further and implement more aggressive mandatory measures such as those taken in Oak Park to facilitate social distancing as soon as possible before more cases of COVID-19 that will certainly arise daily. Such mandatory measures may include but are not limited to:

- **Requiring all individuals to shelter in place at their place of residence except for essential activities (buying groceries, picking up medicine) or those who perform work for essential businesses and government agencies;**
- **Closing all remaining non-essential businesses including bars, restaurants, gyms, movie theaters, stores (excluding essential businesses such as grocery stores, gas stations, and pharmacies, which need to stay open);**
- **Enacting more support for telecommuting and working from home when possible, including telehealth to avoid overcrowding in our ERs and hospitals for mild cases.**

We understand that there will be unintended consequences of these drastic measures, but social distancing only works if everyone does it. If we do not succeed in slowing the rate of infection immediately, our health care system will be overwhelmed.

The scope and timing of such measures are critical. Cities that have implemented aggressive measures early have been able to drastically slow the spread of COVID-19. We commend you and city leaders for the aggressive actions taken to date, such as closing our public schools, bars and restaurants. While these actions help, the voluntary implementation of social distancing remains challenging.

Please know we do not come to this decision lightly. While we know our communities will face short-term economic set-backs, the long-term economic consequences of not acting now are substantially greater. We can be a model of public health by taking early action. As health professionals, the weeks to come will overwhelm our already fragile healthcare system. Please help us so we can help our communities face this crisis.

Thank you for your consideration. We are happy to discuss further or provide additional resources to you.

Best regards,

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****ADDITIONAL SIGNATURES WERE REMOVED FOR PRIVACY PURPOSES****