



April 2, 2020

Governor Steve Sisolak
State Capitol Building
101 N. Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Governor, Sisolak,

On behalf of the Nevada State Medical Association and our nearly 2,000 members of physicians and physician assistants, we want to express our continued support of your endeavors and those of your administration to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in Nevada. We know these bold decisions will help hospitals and healthcare providers better manage the potential influx of patients.

We know the difficult decision to extend and formalize Nevada's stay at home orders were made with the advice and guidance of many professionals including healthcare officials and members of the NSMA. Across Nevada, we are seeing the number of confirmed cases increasing exponentially and with that brings the unfortunate reality of the loss of life. By expanding your stay at home order to April 30th, we believe this will give our communities the ability to reduce exposure to the general population and allow our health care systems to respond to those who need immediate care. Most importantly for our state, we're hopeful these preventative efforts will give our health care system the best chance against the inevitable peak which experts believe could overwhelm our health care system and stretch limited resources.

Additionally, we want to express our gratitude for taking the proactive steps to ease the licensure process for medical professionals who are not currently practicing in Nevada and providing a path for medical students to actively contribute to the pandemic's response efforts. We know that by supplementing our health care community with trained professionals who are not currently in the workforce, we will grow our capacity and our system will be able to provide more care to Nevadans.

As previously mentioned, we continue to support the public health protocols in place for

individuals who may be experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, including prevention methods and avoiding hospital emergency rooms and urgent care centers to assess their symptoms unless absolutely necessary. We encourage Nevada citizens seeking outpatient medical appointments to try to utilize Telemedicine visits, when appropriate, to allow patients to access quality healthcare while putting patients and healthcare workers at less risk for exposure to COVID-19.

The collective efforts and sacrifices of our community members and businesses will help Nevadans overcome this unforeseen crisis.

We look forward to our continued collaboration on this issue.

Sincerely,



Ron Swanger, MD
President
The Nevada State Medical Association



Daniel Burkhead, MD
President
Clark County Medical Society



Jay Morgan, MD
President
Washoe County Medical Society