

March 30, 2020

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500

Vice President Michael Richard Pence
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump and Vice President Pence:

As organizations representing health care providers, public health professionals, patients, scientists and advocates, we urge you to maintain public health guided social distancing efforts nationwide to flatten the curve of COVID-19 infections until medical evidence indicates that it is safe to relax them and thank you for extending the current guidelines to April 30. We strongly emphasize the need for economic, nutritional and educational support for workers, small businesses, families and children who are facing steep sacrifices as a result of this pandemic.

Lifting restrictions on gathering and travel by an arbitrary date endangers the health of Americans and control of this public health crisis. Easing social distancing measures while COVID-19 transmissions continue to climb will lead to faster spread of disease, overwhelm health care settings that continue to lack essential medical equipment and supplies [including Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)], and result in deaths that could have been prevented.

The nation needs your leadership to guide a uniform, nationwide protection plan. While most governors have put in place robust social distancing policies, statewide efforts alone will not be sufficient to control this public health crisis. A strong nationwide plan that supports and enforces social distancing should remain in place until public health and medical experts indicate it can safely be lifted. Lifting restrictions sooner will gravely jeopardize the health of all Americans and extend the harmful economic impacts of the pandemic.

Respectfully submitted by the other signed organizations,

Infectious Diseases Society of America
HIV Medicine Association
AIDS Alabama
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
American Academy of HIV Medicine
American Academy of Pediatrics
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Diabetes Association
American Lung Association
American Osteopathic Association
American Public Health Association

American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy
American Society for Microbiology
American Society for Reproductive Medicine
American Society of Nephrology
American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene
American Statistical Association
American Thoracic Society
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology
Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health
Big Cities Health Coalition
Black AIDS Institute
CAEAR Coalition
Cascade AIDS Project
Community Education Group
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
ECU Adult Specialty Care
Endocrine Society
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality
HealthHIV
Heartland Alliance
Hepatitis Education Project
HIV + Aging Research Project--Palm Springs
Hyacinth AIDS Foundation
International Foundation for Alternative Research in AIDS
March of Dimes
Medical Library Association
National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors
National Coalition for LGBT Health
National Coalition of STD Directors
National Network of Public Health Institutes
National Working Positive Coalition
North Carolina AIDS Action Network
Prevention Access Campaign
Rhode Island Public Health Institute
Safe States Alliance
Society for Public Health Education

Society of Critical Care Medicine

The AIDS Institute

The Center for HIV Law and Policy

The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America

The Well Project

Treatment Action Group

Trust for America's Health