## CMSS Statement on Restrictions to Slow the COVID-19 Pandemic

Dear President Trump, Vice President Pence, and Ambassador Birx:

Thank you for actively engaging the health care community—particularly the nation's physicians and the organizations that represent them—in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States.

As more than 800,000 physicians across more than 40 specialties in medicine, we continue to support travel and gathering restrictions to slow the transmission of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Physicians, other health professionals, and staff are putting themselves in harm's way without adequate personal protective equipment or necessary tools (such as ventilators) as well as with no proven treatment or vaccine for the virus.

Significant COVID-19 transmission continues across the United States, and we need your leadership in supporting science-based recommendations on social distancing that can slow the virus. Our societies have closely adhered to these measures by moving our staff to fulltime telework and canceling in-person meetings (including annual meetings). These actions have helped to keep physicians and other health professionals in health care facilities, including hospitals, and reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19.

Statewide efforts alone will not sufficiently control this public health crisis. A strong nationwide plan that supports and enforces social distancing—and recognizes that our health and our economy are inextricably linked—should remain in place until public health and medical experts indicate it can be lifted.

Federal, state, and local governments should only set a date for lifting nationwide social distancing restrictions consistent with assessments by public health and medical experts. Lifting restrictions sooner will gravely jeopardize the health of all Americans and extend the devastation of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Again, thank you for actively engaging the nation's physicians and the organizations that represent them. We appreciate your considering these comments and welcome an opportunity for further dialogue.

Sincerely,

Council of Medical Specialty Societies

American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology American Academy of Dermatology American Academy of Family Physicians American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine American Academy of Neurology American Academy of Ophthalmology

American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists

American College of Cardiology

American College of Emergency Physicians

American College of Medical Genetics

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine

American College of Physicians

American College of Preventive Medicine

American College of Radiology

American College of Rheumatology

American College of Surgeons

American Epilepsy Society

American Gastroenterological Association

**American Geriatrics Society** 

American Medical Informatics Association

American Psychiatric Association

American Society of Anesthesiologists

American Society for Clinical Pathology

American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons

American Society of Hematology

American Society of Nephrology

American Society for Radiation Oncology

American Society for Reproductive Medicine

American Thoracic Society

American Urological Association

Association for Clinical Oncology

Infectious Diseases Society of America

North American Spine Society

Society of Critical Care Medicine

Society of Gynecologic Oncology

Society of Hospital Medicine

Society of Interventional Radiology

Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging

Society of Thoracic Surgeons

Society for Vascular Surgery