

The Honorable Roy Cooper
Governor of North Carolina
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

March 23, 2020

Dear Governor Cooper:

As a follow up to our letter submitted on March 22, 2020 requesting your action to strengthen social distancing guidance, we now ask that you issue an immediate order to Shelter in Place.

After briefing with all hospital systems throughout the State earlier today, it's clear that the cases are increasing at a rapid rate. Personal protective equipment and supplies are running low in nearly every region of the State. We cannot afford to be led by a false sense of security created by a low number of confirmed cases. We do not have the luxury to think and act based on human time. COVID-19 follows its own timeline and pathway. Because of limited availability of tests and high-throughput technology, we do not have the data to fully understand the magnitude or timing of the surge. We expect to see a continued multiplying effect until the state implements a Shelter in Place directive. It is imperative that we move quickly, as it will take at least two weeks after a shelter in place order is issued before we see a change in the trajectory of cases. Hospitals and physicians throughout the State believe this is the only resort left to immediately impact the growth and spread of the virus.

Your immediate attention is appreciated.

Sincerely,



Steve Lawler
President and CEO
North Carolina Healthcare Association.

Cc:
Lieutenant Governor Dan Forest
Secretary of State Elaine Marshall
Auditor Beth Wood
Treasurer Dale Folwell
Superintendent of Public Instruction Mark Johnson
Attorney General Josh Stein
Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Troxler
Commissioner of Labor Cherie K. Berry
Commissioner of Insurance Mike Causey

