



MISSISSIPPI
ACADEMY
OF
FAMILY
PHYSICIANS

755 Avignon Drive
Ridgeland, MS 39157
601-853-3302 (P)
601-853-3002 (F)
www.msafp.org

President

William M. Grantham, MD
Brandon

President – Elect

James W. Griffin, MD
New Augusta

Vice President

Carlos A. Latorre, MD, FAAFP
Vicksburg

Secretary

Paul M. Pavlov, MD
Biloxi

Treasurer

Bradley Suggs, MD
Brandon

Immediate Past President

David B. Wheat, MD, FAAFP
Clinton

Executive Director

Beth Embry
Madison

AAFP Delegates

Katherine T. Patterson, MD, FAAFP
Indianola

John R. Mitchell, MD, FAAFP
Pontotoc

AAFP Alternate Delegates

Susan A. Chiarito, MD, FAAFP
Vicksburg

P. Brent Smith, MD, MSC, FAAFP
Cleveland

Directors

District 1

Angela C. Jones, MD
Poplarville

District 2

Chrystal A. Sumrall, MD, FAAFP
Laurel

District 3

James W. Ervin, MD, FAAFP
Crystal Springs

District 4

Evelyn R. Walker, MD
Jackson

District 5

John P. Vanderloo, MD
Madison

District 6

Stephen C. Hammack, MD
Kosciusko

District 7

T. Bruce Longest, MD
Bruce

District 8

Christopher L. Park, DO
New Albany

Director at Large

Christy B. Vowell, DO
Eupora

Director at Large

Anna Marie Hailey-Sharp, MD
Preston

April 17, 2020

Thomas E. Dobbs, III, MD, MPH
State Health Officer
MS Department of Health
570 East Woodrow Wilson Drive
Jackson, MS 39216
thomas.dobbs@msdh.ms.gov

Dear Dr. Dobbs:

As part of our mission statement, the MAFP, representing 1,333 family physicians, residents and medical students across the state of Mississippi is dedicated to improving the health of all Mississippians. We want to be advocates for our patients and their healthcare needs.

As you know addressing health disparities is difficult due to multiple factors but as you have addressed each day in press conferences, a large proportion of the deaths (66%) and a significant proportion of cases (56%) are African American. Therefore, we would like to share ideas on how to flatten that specific curve:

Because African Americans make up the majority of workers at the businesses that have remained opened (food services, grocery stores, post offices, shipping/trucking warehouses) it is imperative that these front-line essential workers are equipped with appropriate PPE. Please encourage these actions among Mississippians at your televised press conferences:

-Encourage churches in black communities to work together to craft handmade masks for the front-line workers in the service and delivery industries.

-Encourage business owners to strive to provide their workers with PPE when they are face to face with the public.

-Encourage MEMA to distribute a portion of masks to these frontline workers.

-Reach out to MS companies who are making masks and hand sanitizer and ask them to dedicate a portion of masks to business frontline essential workers.

We are creating a PSA for our family docs urging their patients to use guidelines to help fight this enemy in black communities.

MISSION: Supporting Family Medicine physicians as they improve the health of all Mississippians.

We are enthusiastic about the free testing sites in minority communities and we thank you for reporting the breakdown of cases by race and demographics. This will help our family doctors in their areas help plan strategies with their local government.

Mississippi is strongest when we work to help each other.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William M. Grantham MD".

William M. Grantham, MD
President

On behalf of MAFP Board of Directors