



June 17, 2020

Governor Doug Ducey  
State Capitol  
1700 W. Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Governor Ducey,

As CEOs of the Arizona health ecosystem, we understand that *lives and livelihoods* are inextricably linked and must be properly balanced. We understand the need to ease business restrictions in the state, but also recognize that easing business restrictions must be accompanied with evidenced-based safety precautions that protect Arizona’s public health. Until a treatment, vaccine, or herd immunity is achieved, Arizonans continue to be at risk.

The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) projects deaths due to Covid-19 in Arizona will more than quadruple by October 1, increasing to 4,762.

*We can positively impact the projected IHME trajectory by requiring masks in public areas and instituting robust contact tracing with easily accessible testing in Arizona.*

### **Requiring Masks**

We appreciate your recent endorsement of face mask usage in public. Yet, we believe we can do more to protect Arizona public health. A recent definitive study on the efficacy of face masks in China, Italy, and New York, concludes that, “...wearing of face masks in public corresponds to the **most effective means to prevent interhuman transmission**, and this inexpensive practice, in conjunction with simultaneous social distancing, quarantine, and contact tracing, represents the most likely fighting opportunity to stop the COVID-19 pandemic.”<sup>1</sup> Additionally, The World Health Organization studied 25,000 people in 16 countries and concludes that the chance of Covid-19 infection drops from 17% to just 3% when a mask is worn.

We respectfully request you require Arizonans to wear face masks in public and provide for meaningful enforcement of non-compliance either through the state or by empowering local cities and counties to use their own enforcement authority to combat COVID-19 in their local communities.

This action will not only save lives, but, will demonstrate strong support for our healthcare workers as they cope with the stress and demands of this challenging environment.

### **Contact Tracing**

In conjunction with implementing evidenced-based public health precautions, contact tracing can be an effective method to mitigate viral spread. Contact tracing can interrupt viral transmission chains and has been an essential component of successful coronavirus responses in China, South Korea, Singapore, and Germany.

We strongly encourage you to implement a comprehensive contact tracing program for all of Arizona. Individuals identified as coming in contact with a confirmed COVID-19 patient should be contacted, tested immediately, and, if tested positive, required to quarantine for 14 days.

We are embarking on a new phase of our COVID-19 journey, and, we have a long way to go until the end of this outbreak. Opening up the economy is important and necessary. We believe that you can save lives *and* livelihoods by supplementing business openings with mask requirements in conjunction with a rigorous contact tracing program across Arizona.

We stand ready to support you to help Arizona manage through this very challenging time. We would welcome a direct dialogue with you at any time to discuss ways we can collaborate to manage this public health crisis. Arizona can get through this—with clear, decisive executive leadership, Arizonans who implement evidence based practices in their daily life, and a strong healthcare community doing what they do best-taking care of patients.

We are in this together and together we will conquer COVID-19 in Arizona.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ann-Marie Alameddin  
President and CEO  
Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association

Todd LaPorte  
CEO  
Honor Health

Peter Fine  
President and CEO  
Banner Health

Robert Meyer  
President and CEO  
Phoenix Children's Hospital

Pam Kehaly  
President and CEO  
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona

Frank Molinaro  
Arizona Group CEO  
Tenet Health

Tammy McLeod  
President and CEO  
Flinn Foundation

Jeffrey Trent  
President and Research Director  
Translational Genomics Research Institute

Kim Shepard  
Market President, Arizona  
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David McIntyre  
President and CEO  
TriWest Healthcare Alliance

Linda Hunt  
Sr. VP Operations and CEO, Arizona  
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Heather Kane  
CEO  
United Healthcare

Aubrey Maze  
West Group President  
Envision Physician Service

Steve Purves  
President and CEO  
Valleywise Health

Suzanne Pfister  
CEO  
Vitalyst Health Foundation

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<sup>1</sup>*Identifying Airborne Transmission as the Dominant Route for the Spread of COVID-19*, The Proceeding of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS); the official journal of the National Academy of Sciences. Renyi Zhang, Yixin li, Annie L. Zhang, Yuan Wang, Mario J. Molina. [PNAS first published June 11, 2020](#)



**MY MASK PROTECTS YOU, AND  
YOUR MASK PROTECTS ME.**

**Sponsored by Greater Phoenix Leadership Health Care Task Force**