



A Strong, Collective Physician Voice

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December 8, 2020

Fran McCarroll

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

Maricopa County

301 West Jefferson Street

Phoenix, AZ 85003

Dear Clerk of the Board:

I am writing on behalf of the physician members of Maricopa County Medical Society, the oldest medical society in Arizona. Our hospital system is nearing capacity due to record numbers of COVID-19 patients and our healthcare workers are exhausted and overwhelmed.

We appreciate all efforts you have made to control this pandemic, especially the mask mandate. We would strongly encourage you take further steps to protect Maricopa County residents and our healthcare providers who are at high risk during this record-setting COVID-19 surge.

We are asking for you to institute any measures under your control to bring our numbers down again. We are encouraging telemedicine visits whenever possible and cancellation of elective medical procedures. We would appreciate your encouragement of remote work for non-essential offices, and closing bars, personal grooming, and personal care businesses. CDC has shown that persons with COVID-19 are twice as likely to have dined indoors. We recommend closing dine-in restaurant service while allowing outdoor (socially distanced) dining, along with pickup and delivery options. We are asking for a ban on all outdoor gatherings of any size where social distancing between households is difficult to enforce. We are asking for a ban on all indoor gatherings of non-household members. Retail establishments and malls should limit occupancy to 20% of max capacity.

Finally, we are asking for measures to enforce the county-wide mask mandate. Masks remain a key tool for controlling this pandemic prior to widespread vaccine administration. Your leadership is crucial in convincing others that this practice is necessary.

Respectfully,

Lee Ann Kelley, MD

President, Maricopa County Medical Society