



31 March 2020

Governor Michael L. Parson  
Capitol Building, Room 216  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Governor Parson:

On behalf of the Missouri Emergency Medical Services Association and the Missouri Association of Air Medical Services we are requesting an immediate enactment of a “shelter-in-place” requirement by executive order.

As of this writing, twenty-five (25) states have enacted a state wide order for shelter-in-place, according to the New York Times, as of March 28, 2020. Several of our mid-western states such as Indiana and Ohio have all enacted such orders to help “flatten the curve” and give us healthcare workers a chance to not be overrun by the number of patients we will potentially have to care for. Our neighbors to the west and east have both done so.

There are multiple models being distributed with various rates of infection being quoted. However, the data is consistent in one area: if we do nothing, we will have many more people infected than if a state wide shelter-in-place order was put into effect. The more people that are infected equates to more critically ill patients. More critically ill patients equate to more deaths from COVID-19. These are proven facts. The specific numbers are not clear, but the overall facts are crystal clear.

Healthcare leaders from across the country are preparing to run out of ICU beds and ventilators. We are working through models of what our business looks like when healthcare workers become infected, end up critically ill and die. Who will be left to care for the sick people? At the local level, in our state, we are discussing how to band together to save lives. Hospitals, clinics, public health, EMS; are all coming together to support each other and establish plans to care for a rapid influx of patients.

We must protect our healthcare workers. First, we need the appropriate PPE to do our job. It is unacceptable that in the United States, in 2020, we do not have appropriate PPE for front line healthcare workers. Second, we need to give the healthcare workers a chance not to be overrun by patient volumes. The only way proven to do so is to slow the rate of spread of COVID-19.

We need access to wide-spread COVID-19 testing. It is impossible to evaluate the potential impact this pandemic will have without accurate data. We lack accurate data at this time due to

a lack of testing. A lesson can be learned by utilizing EMS clinicians to assist in performing wide-spread testing.

As EMS clinicians in Missouri, we are on the front lines of this pandemic. Paramedics, EMT's, nurses, PA's, NP's, RT's and physicians are committed to fighting this battle. We accept that many of us will likely contract COVID-19 while treating the patients we serve. We ask for your assistance as we go to battle. Help us help Missourians by enacting a shelter-in-place requirement by executive order before it is too late.

We appreciate your support of Emergency Medical Services across Missouri in the past. We look forward to your continued support as we navigate these uncharted waters together.

Respectfully,

Missouri EMS Association, Board of Directors

Missouri Association of Air Medical Services, Board of Directors