

March 22, 2020

To the MSSC Board of Directors:

Due to the escalating and destructive situation of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are contacting you to request and support an order for an immediate shelter-in-place/stay-at-home for the greater Wichita area and Sedgwick County.

Current disease replication rates, infections, and deaths are rising in an exponential fashion in multiple municipalities across the United States, including in our state. We are unable to report accurate numbers in the city of Wichita and Sedgwick County, due to a lack of testing resources.

Current modeling of disease shows we are likely to see a surge and peak of the disease in the coming 2 weeks, unless our current efforts at containing the disease are increased. We need to “flatten the curve” and decrease local spread in an effort to avoid overloading our hospital systems. Surge planning shows that we lack sufficient health care personnel, protective equipment for health care workers, space, and supplies to care for the rapid influx of critically ill patients with this disease, in addition to our current patient population. Without actions to reduce the total number of cases of COVID-19, our hospitals and health care workers will be overwhelmed, resulting in unnecessary deaths.

As pulmonary and critical care physicians, we are advocating for all measures that will reduce the spread of disease and limit critically ill patients. This will offer us the opportunity to care for and save patient lives. We feel an immediate shelter-in-place/stay-at-home order from the local government is the best action to give us this opportunity. Please see www.covidactnow.org/state/KS for further information.

Sincerely,

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