



March 11, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, & Minority Leader McCarthy:

The American Academy of Family Physicians, representing 134,600 family physicians across the country, are working diligently to screen, diagnose, counsel, and treat patients who have or believe they have COVID-19. Our members are fully committed to helping their patients and their communities in this time of national need, but we urgently need greater coordination.

**We urge Congress to contact the White House Coronavirus Task Force to ensure that information, supplies and resources are flowing to physicians on the frontlines, not just hospitals and public health departments.**

Consistency and coordination will be the key to successfully responding to this public health crisis. We are doing all we can to assemble and disseminate information prepared by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization to our members; however, we still lack critical information including:

- the availability of testing kits
- clearly stated protocols for when and how testing should be conducted
- how to address the scarcity of personal protective equipment (PPE) for frontline clinicians
- coordinated communication between federal agencies, health departments, and the medical community

**This lack of information and communication will have a devastating impact on our efforts to treat our patients effectively.**

If we are to be successful, it will be imperative that there is an enhanced level of collaboration and cooperation with the federal government and its agencies. We urge you to ask the White House Coronavirus Task Force to partner with family physicians and other primary care clinicians to ensure greater coordination and information sharing. Please contact Stephanie Quinn, Director of Government Relations for additional information.

Sincerely,

John Cullen, MD  
Board Chair

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