



March 10, 2020

The Honorable Mike Pence  
Vice President of the United States  
Chair, White House Coronavirus Task Force  
The White House  
Washington, DC

Mr. Vice President:

As the SARS-Cov-2 virus spreads and more Americans face COVID-19, the nation's family physicians and other primary clinicians are on the frontlines of screening, diagnosing, counseling and treating patients who have or believe they have COVID-19.

The American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) is working diligently to distribute timely information regarding best practices to our members. We are actively assembling and distributing information prepared by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO). In addition, we are in communication with national laboratory companies and commercial insurance companies to assemble and distribute the timeliest information available to our members.

However, we are growing increasingly concerned about several issues:

- the lack of an adequate supply of testing kits at the practice and community level
- the lack of clearly stated protocol for when and how testing should be conducted, and results reported
- the scarcity of personal protective equipment (PPE) for frontline physicians
- the lack of communication and information between federal agencies, health departments and frontline primary care physicians

In recent days, the Chair of the White House Coronavirus Task Force has held meetings and strategy sessions with a variety of industry representatives. Yet, to date, the task force or other relevant federal agencies have not sought direct input from the organization representing the frontline family physicians who are dealing directly with this evolving crisis.

**The AAFP, on behalf of our 134,600 members, formally requests a direct meeting with you and members of the White House Coronavirus Task Force to share concerns we are hearing from our members and discuss the immediate and necessary steps that should be taken to inform, equip and empower family physicians as they prepare to care for thousands of patients impacted by COVID-19 in the coming days.**

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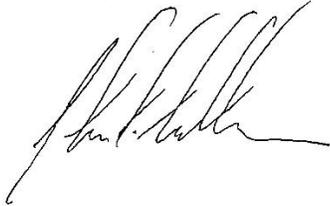
**Speaker**  
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Again, our members are committed to helping their patients and their communities in this time of national need, but it is becoming clear that an enhanced level of collaboration and cooperation with the federal government and its agencies will be necessary if we are to be successful. We look forward to meeting with you and the task force. For additional information or to facilitate scheduling, please contact Shawn Martin, Senior Vice President at [smartin@aafp.org](mailto:smartin@aafp.org) or (202) 232-9033.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John S. Cullen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

John S. Cullen, MD, FAAFP  
Board Chair

C: The Honorable Alex Azar  
The Honorable Seema Verma