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April 6, 2020

The Honorable Kim Reynolds  
Office of the Governor  
State Capitol  
1007 East Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Governor Reynolds:

On behalf of the American Medical Association (AMA) and our physician and medical student members, I am writing to strongly urge you to issue a statewide, emergency order to close non-essential businesses, limit non-essential activities and prohibit gatherings during the critical stages of the response to the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Physical distancing is the only effective mechanism to slow the exponential spread of the virus and decrease the anticipated spike in COVID-19 cases across all states. As physicians, we are honored to serve and put our lives on the front line to protect our patients and communities, but we need the help of policymakers as we take on this immense challenge. It is vital that you keep residents at home to avoid overwhelming Iowa's health care systems and depleting the equipment, resources and manpower needed to care for the influx of critically ill patients.

Viruses know no borders. Therefore, a uniform response to the pandemic across all states is critical and stay-at-home orders are a necessary defense to turn the tide against COVID-19. **We strongly urge Iowa to issue a stay-at-home order to residents.** This directive will save lives in Iowa.

We thank you for the opportunity to express our views and stand ready to assist you in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. Please contact Annalia Michelman, JD, Senior Legislative Attorney, AMA Advocacy Resource Center at [annalia.michelman@ama-assn.org](mailto:annalia.michelman@ama-assn.org) for more information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim L. Madara". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James L. Madara, MD