

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Elizabeth Reiss
Director of Communications
South Dakota State Medical Association
605-336-1965
ereiss@sdsma.org

Doctors, Hospitals and Nurses Issue Open Letter Urging South Dakota Public to Stay Home

Leading organizations urge public to stay home to stop the spread of coronavirus

MARCH 24, 2020 – SIOUX FALLS – The leading medical and health organizations in South Dakota today called on the South Dakota public to stay home to help reduce the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and limit its long-term health effect on our country. The open letter from the South Dakota State Medical Association, South Dakota Association of Healthcare Organizations, and South Dakota Nurses Association is available in full-text below:

Open letter to the South Dakota public:

Physicians, nurses and our entire medical community are urging all people to stay at home. We are honored to serve and put our lives on the front line to protect and save as many lives as possible. But we need your help.

Physical distancing and staying at home are the key to slowing the spread of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) to give physicians, nurses and everyone on the front lines a fighting chance at having the equipment, time and resources necessary to take on this immense challenge. Those contracting COVID-19 are your family, friends, and loved ones.

That's why we're urging the public to #StayHome as we reach the critical stages of our national response to COVID-19. Of course, those with urgent medical needs, including pregnant women, should seek care as needed. Everyone else should #StayHome.

Thousands of you are already leading this effort – and we thank you. You're still connecting with friends and loved ones through video chats, social media or just over the telephone – proving that meaningful social connections can happen at a safe distance. Millions more must join this effort, which is why we're calling for all-hands-on-deck to confront this public health battle against COVID-19.

Staying at home in this urgent moment is our best defense to turn the tide against COVID-19. Physicians, nurses and health care workers are staying at work for you. Please stay at home for us.

Your partners in health,

South Dakota State Medical Association (SDSMA)
South Dakota Association of Healthcare Organizations (SDAHO)
South Dakota Nurses Association (SDNA)