



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Arizona Physicians Share Recommendations for Reopening AZ Economy

April 23, 2020 (Phoenix) – Yesterday, Governor Ducey issued an Executive Order with new guidance on elective surgeries. The Arizona Medical Association, representing 4000+ physicians throughout AZ, was among several stakeholders that worked tirelessly with the Governor’s Office to provide direct input and guidance into the process for restarting elective surgeries. The parameters as outlined in the EO are consistent with the national recommendations that ArMA provided and focus on how to restart procedures safely, in a way that protects patients and the broader healthcare community.

Governor Ducey has stated he is currently reviewing options for opening the broader Arizona economy. ArMA supports those deliberations and recommends a balanced approach be taken that weighs both the business factors and the public health considerations. COVID19 has created not only a healthcare crisis but also an economic one. The economic impact for many Arizona physicians and their practices, like so many others, has been devastating.

We urge Governor Ducey to consider the national recommendations from the American Medical Association to use science, evidence, and data when making decisions about the public health of all Arizonans.

ArMA supports the relaxing of physical distancing restrictions under the following conditions:

- Minimal risk of community transmission based on sustained evidence of a downward trend in new cases and fatalities;
- A robust, coordinated, and well-supplied testing network;
- Sufficient PPE for the healthcare community;
- A well-resourced public health system providing surveillance and contact tracing; and
- Fully resourced hospitals and health care workforce.

“We applaud the Governor on his Executive Order urging Arizonans to stay home, since it has reduced the spread of the COVID-19 virus. As he reevaluates the order and considers responsible steps to reopen the economy, we look forward to working with him to provide guidance. Our perspective will always be that public health remains an essential consideration for the strongest and most effective overall recovery,” stated ArMA President, Dr. Ross Goldberg.

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About Arizona Medical Association

The Arizona Medical Association (ArMA) is the largest organization in the state representing the interests of all physicians. For more than 125 years, ArMA has been advancing patient

care and providing its members with leadership, advocacy, education, and networking. For more information, visit www.AZmed.org and follow ArMA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).