Statement from the Arizona Medical Association regarding July 4th Celebration

June 29, 2020 (Phoenix) – With the July 4th holiday weekend rapidly approaching, the physicians of the Arizona Medical Association (ArMA) would like to remind everyone that this is a critical time to follow the recommendations for slowing the spread of the COVID-19 virus:

- Practice good hand hygiene
- Maintain physical distancing of 6 feet or more
- Wear a cloth face mask covering.

ArMA is urging all local municipalities to adopt these public health recommendations when planning the 4th of July celebrations this year. Arizona has received unwanted national attention as we continue to see a surge in new COVID-19 case numbers and hospitalizations. No one wants the situation to worsen. Governor Ducey has given local officials the authority to address these issues -- we ask you to continue doing so.

ArMA will continue to work with stakeholders, advocating that public health be the paramount consideration when dealing with the pandemic. We implore the Governor to continue the stance he has taken, ensuring that all businesses strictly follow the stated recommendations and directly addressing any “bad actors” that choose not to follow the rules. At this critical time, public health rules need to be enforced, and those violating them must be held responsible.

Finally, we are appealing to you, the public. This virus is real and there are countless examples of what happens when large crowds gather without the proper precautions. “We must take this moment and stand together to protect our families and one another,” stated Dr. Ross Goldberg, ArMA President. “The healthcare community needs your help. There are only so many healthcare workers and hospital beds, and we are nearing capacity. The science is clear: people without symptoms can spread COVID-19 to those they love, sometimes with tragic results. So please, do not be one of those stories.”

ArMA’s leadership and members appreciate that July 4th is a reminder of who we are as a country and is to be celebrated. However, we also recognize that our state is in the middle of a pandemic. We respectfully urge all Arizonans to consider that this year, a new way to show your patriotism is to practice good hand hygiene, maintain physical distancing of 6 feet or more, and wear a cloth face mask covering. It is a simple but clear way to show you care about your fellow Americans on Independence Day. #TrustYourDoc

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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.