



*The Maryland State Medical Society*

**News: For Immediate Release**

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## **MEDCHI PRESIDENT URGES HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS TO DISCOURAGE UNNECESSARY INTERPERSONAL INTERACTIONS**

BALTIMORE, March 19, 2020 — Dr. Michele Manahan, President of MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, issued a statement on behalf of the society. “MedChi, as the group uniting physicians across the state of Maryland, strongly encourages all healthcare providers to DISCOURAGE ANY UNNECESSARY INTERPERSONAL INTERACTIONS OF ANY SIZE. Please consider this in relation to healthcare settings as well as non-healthcare settings. Please encourage patients not to seek non-urgent care. Please encourage providers to strictly limit access to non-urgent care. Please encourage all your contacts not to gather socially or professionally unless absolutely necessary. We know that this pandemic will impact all of us. Yet those who are at highest risk for poor outcomes cannot control the behaviors of others.

We, as the physicians of Maryland, can help mitigate this disease. We encourage those in authority to enact protections, guided by medical science, and enforce these. We encourage continued ability of physicians and healthcare organizations to consider the specific healthcare needs of their patients. We urge against overly-restrictive blanket statements based on location of care and recommend instead that triage decisions be made based on medical need. We urge increased uniform public messaging through media channels by reliable social influencers sanctioned by public health agencies to put any and all effort into educating the populace and enforcing safe behaviors. We strongly urge continued emphasis on delivery of medical supplies for treatment and prevention to end users. We also strongly urge continued emphasis on early and timely assurances of financial protections for the general populace as well as health care employees and providers so that fear of financial ruin does not subvert behaviors that can SAVE LIVES.”

### About MedChi

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. It is the largest physician organization in Maryland. The mission of MedChi is to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients and the public health of Maryland. For more information, please visit [www.medchi.org](http://www.medchi.org).