



*The Maryland State Medical Society*

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## **MID-ATLANTIC STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY COALITION STATEMENT ON PROTECTING HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS DURING COVID-19**

BALTIMORE, April 24, 2020 — MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is joining with the medical societies of the Mid-Atlantic region to strongly urge action to promote safe working conditions for physicians and other healthcare professionals engaged in patient care. Together with the Medical Society of the District of Columbia, the Pennsylvania Medical Society, the Medical Society of Delaware, and the Medical Society of Virginia, MedChi is sharing that:

1. We urge local authorities to ensure an adequate supply and distribution of PPE for every frontline healthcare professional, now. We also urge that adequate planning for potential future supply needs be firmly in place when considering expansion of suspended healthcare activities. Adequate PPE is fundamental to protection of the healthcare workforce and all patients.
2. We support the [American Medical Association \(AMA\) statement](#) allowing the use of private PPE when other safe options do not exist. This does not release institutions responsibilities to ensure provision of adequate PPE to all healthcare personnel.
3. Physicians and other healthcare professionals may appropriately decide that publicly sharing experiences, expertise, concerns, and opinions (including to the news media and on social media) may help achieve needed protections for the health and safety of patients and clinicians. Physicians and other healthcare professionals should not be at risk for employment termination, or other disciplinary actions, for publicly sharing, within their health care systems or beyond, such items.
4. We support the [American Medical Association \(AMA\) statement](#) that “no employer should restrict physicians’ freedom to advocate for the best interest of their patients.”

This statement is modeled from the statement released by the Council of Medical Specialty Societies on April 2, 2020 and the MSDC Statement on Protecting District Physicians During COVID-19.

### 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).