



*The Maryland State Medical Society*

**News: For Immediate Release**

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## **MEDCHI URGES MARYLANDERS TO PRACTICE PROPER SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES THIS JULY 4TH**

BALTIMORE, July 2, 2020 – As we approach the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday weekend, MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, and the MedChi Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee Chair, Dr. Kathleen D. Keeffe Hough, are urging Marylanders to remain vigilant about following the recommended public health guidelines for social interaction. As people gather to celebrate, please continue to use masks when around others, maintain social distancing, and try to gather outdoors instead of indoors to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19. According to the Maryland Health Department ([click here to view](#)), over the last week there has been a rise in new coronavirus cases with a slight increase in hospitalizations over the past 3 days. Much of the increase in cases is in people under the age of 40 after moving into Phase 2 of reopening almost 3 weeks ago.

This pattern reflects the same trend as what Florida, Arizona, Texas, and California experienced several weeks ago, which was then followed by a surge in high acuity illness and strain on both the healthcare system and society in those states. According to the demographic breakdown by the Arizona Department of Health Services, ([click here to view](#)) which was updated as of June 30, 2020, 49% of new COVID-19 cases are in the 20-44 age groups. The Texas Department of State Health Services ([click here to view](#)) shows 54% of new cases are in the 20-49 age group and the Florida Department of Health ([click here to view](#)) shows 52% of the new cases are in the 15-44 age group.

Maryland has so far done well with managing the COVID-19 pandemic with dramatically increased testing, increased contact tracing capability, and achieving a COVID-19 test positivity rate below 5 percent. The recent increase in cases may enhance the risk of a 2nd surge in severe COVID-19 illness. If Marylanders re-dedicate themselves to universal mask wearing, good hygiene, and social distancing, we may avoid the challenges of Florida, Arizona, Texas, and California and continue to enjoy a healthier and safer Maryland.

### 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).