

MISSOURI SOCIETY OF ORAL & MAXILLOFACIAL SURGEONS

April 13, 2020

The Honorable Michael L. Parson, Governor
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 720
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Governor Parson:

One of our primary goals as oral and maxillofacial surgeons (OMSs) is to alleviate dental pain and infections, which can require hospitalization and even become life-threatening if left untreated.

As the COVID-19 pandemic crisis continues, OMSs have been and will continue to play a crucial role in treating these patients in private facilities and away from the emergency rooms. This is so vital because it decreases an already overtaxed medical system and minimizes patient exposure to the virus. However, in order to accomplish these objectives, our surgeons must have access to the proper personal protective equipment (PPE), including N-95 masks. We are in close proximity to these patients and aerosols are generated, which puts us at high-risk for exposure to COVID-19. In fact, the CDC's *Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Healthcare Settings* recommends prioritizing respirators and AIIRs for aerosol-generating procedures.

I implore you to consider making OMSs critical first responders allowing for immediate access to these masks, and all PPE including masks, gowns and gloves as they become available. With these important protective devices, we can simultaneously provide essential care to patients in need and help stem the spread of COVID-19.

I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



David M. Smith, DDS, MD

President – Missouri Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons
Raymore Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery
909 W. Foxwood Drive
Raymore, MO 64083
(816) 348-7527/(816) 348-7987 – fax
david.smith@raymoreoms.com

cc: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
Randall W. Williams, MD, FACOG, Director