

Michigan Society of
Oral & Maxillofacial
Surgeons

The Honorable Governor Gretchen Whitmer
PO Box 3013

Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Governor Whitmer,

Thank you for your leadership in tackling the COVID-19 pandemic in Michigan. Although executive orders curtailed many of our services, we agree that the measures taken were necessary to flatten the curve of disease transmission. Now, as in the Spring, Oral and maxillofacial surgeons are treating patients in hospitals and in their offices. OMS office procedures include treatment of patients with active infections and acute pain, patients with benign and malignant pathology, as well as patients with facial trauma any of whom may also have COVID-19.

Our office efforts keep patients out of hospital emergency departments. When patients with oral and maxillofacial disorders do require hospitalization, the oral and maxillofacial surgeon is there to treat them. Oral and maxillofacial surgeons should be viewed as primary and essential providers in this pandemic and should have access to appropriate PPE and COVID-19 vaccination.

I am appealing to you as well as MDHHS Director Robert Gordon to assure that Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons and their clinical staff including dental assistants are included as front line workers who receive the first round of COVID-19 vaccine in Michigan.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. If I, or the MSOMS can be of any assistance to you or your administration, we would be honored to help.

Warm regards,



Richard W. Panek DDS, FACD
President of the Michigan Society of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons