

4771 Bayou Boulevard #157  
Pensacola, FL 32503

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April 1, 2020

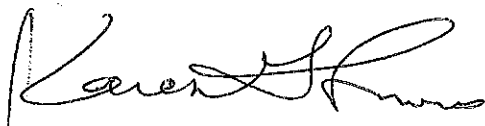
Escambia Board of County Commissioners  
221 Palafox Place  
Pensacola, FL 32502

Dear Mr. Steven Barry, Escambia Board of County Commissioners Chairman  
CC: Jeff Bergosh, Doug Underhill, Lumon May, Robert Bender

The Physicians of the Escambia/ Santa Rosa County Medical Society (ECMS) and the undersigned and listed organizations are gravely concerned about the ever-increasing impact of COVID-19 on the public and healthcare providers in the Northwest Florida area. We are extremely concerned regarding the fact that asymptomatic individuals can spread the virus without awareness. Despite social distancing recommendations and stay in place orders throughout the state of Florida, lack of adherence by citizens risks continued spread of this deadly virus. It is critical that political leaders support all efforts to enforce these recommended strategies. The ECMS fully supports President Trump and Governor DeSantis in their efforts to limit the spread of the Covid virus and flatten the outbreak curve to avoid overwhelming community medical resources and to limit the loss of life.

In a recent poll of local physicians, 85% favor keeping the local beaches closed until the current crisis has passed. Opening our local beaches prematurely would increase opportunities for community transmission while also potentially attracting travelers who are COVID-19 positive. Policing safe social distancing would distract law enforcement from other priority missions. For these reasons, we ask that you please keep our local residents and health care professionals safe by continuing to keep our local beaches closed!

With the utmost regards,



Karen Snow, M.D.

President of the Escambia/Santa Rosa County Medical Society

**Supporting Organizations:**

Ascension Sacred Heart Pensacola  
Baptist Health Care  
Florida Academy of Family Physicians

Medical Center Clinic  
West Florida Hospital  
Woodlands Medical Specialist