

March 18, 2020

The Honorable Robert Kadlec, M.D., MTM&H, M.S.
Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Dr. Kadlec:

The undersigned organizations are writing as representatives of front-line physicians to request that you create a mechanism to provide our organizations regular, timely and relevant COVID-19 information that we may immediately promulgate to our members. We recommend a semi-weekly (twice a week) conference call featuring an appropriate senior public health representative of the Administration and a representative of each of our medical organizations.

We seek to work closely with the Administration to ensure that a strong, effective, and well-coordinated response is implemented to treat and protect the American people. As we all recognize, the World Health Organization's declaration of COVID-19 as a pandemic and the Administration's declaration of National Emergency represent important milestones in the progression of this disease as a public health challenge. This is a rapidly evolving situation and we believe that front-line physicians, like our members, and our patients will be best served by robust lines of communication between the Administration, its public health officials and our organizations.

Please contact Manuel Bonilla of the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) at M.Bonilla@asahq.org or 202-436-2644 or Katie Orrico of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) at Korrigo@neurosurgery.org or 703-362-4637 with any questions.

Thank you for your consideration.

American Society of Anesthesiologists

American Association of Neurological Surgeons

Congress of Neurological Surgeons

American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry

American Academy of Dermatology Association

American Academy of Neurology

American Academy of Ophthalmology

American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons

American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

American College of Radiology

American College of Rheumatology

American Gastroenterological Association

American Medical Association

American Osteopathic Association

American Psychiatric Association

American Society for Radiation Oncology

American Society of Plastic Surgeons

Endocrine Society

National Association of Spine Specialists

Society of Thoracic Surgeons