



Alabama Society of  
Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons

April 7, 2020  
Governor Kay Ivey  
Office of the Governor  
600 Dexter Avenue  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

RE: Alabama Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons as first responders during the COVID-19 pandemic

Dear Governor Ivey,

On behalf of the Alabama Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons' Board of Directors, I request that that the governor's office and the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) consider oral and maxillofacial surgery providers in the state of Alabama as critical first responders in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic gripping our nation. At this time, our providers willingly remain open to see emergency patients in our offices to not only provide care for the community, but also in an effort to limit the burden of patients with acute dental and facial pain, head and neck infections, facial trauma and evolving malignancies from requiring evaluation and treatment in the hospital emergency departments or operating rooms, whenever possible. This is crucial in providing care to our patients efficiently while preserving hospital resources during this healthcare emergency. Unfortunately, as oral and maxillofacial surgeons, we assume some of the most significant risk of any frontline healthcare providers, given our inability to rapidly test incoming patients for the novel coronavirus and the requirement for frequent intraoral procedures. In order to aid us in continuing care and limiting hospital use, I implore you and the ADPH to include our providers in preferential access to N95 respirators and PPE as you would the emergency department staff.

I also ask that you and the ADPH consider making hydroxychloroquine widely available to all healthcare workers tasked with continuing to treat patients during this pandemic. Mounting evidence suggests that the prophylactic use of hydroxychloroquine may be beneficial in limiting the transmission of the virus. Although it is not a replacement for PPE, distancing and hygiene, it may be a useful adjunct in limiting transmission and disease progression. Hydroxychloroquine has been widely used for over 60 years and when used at appropriate doses, has proven to be quite safe. Thus, we feel it should be available to those who would like to take it. Unfortunately, anecdotal evidence suggests that new prescriptions for this medication, even for some healthcare workers may be going unfilled at the individual pharmacy level. Perhaps some clarification from the ADPH and/or Alabama Board of

Pharmacy would be beneficial in addition to targeted mobilization of medication supplies to the first responders in this crisis.

I am hopeful this letter finds you in good health and we appreciate the attentive leadership you and Dr. Harris are providing at this trying time. I know you and your team are working tirelessly and we want to make clear that those efforts are very much appreciated! As oral and maxillofacial surgeons, we are compelled to do our part in battling this invisible enemy and expect that the aforementioned suggestions will allow us to continue to serve our community and our state moving forward. Thank you for your time and stay safe!

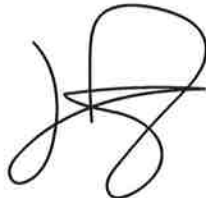
Sincerely,

Landon McLain MD, DMD, FACS  
President  
Alabama Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons

Cc: Scott Harris, MD, MPH, FACP, FIDSA



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