



An open letter to our fellow Tennesseans:

Our organizations represent nurses, advance practice registered nurses, physician assistants and pharmacists. Our associations and the health care providers we represent work cohesively with others on the health care team to ensure you receive the care you need, no matter the circumstances.

When we chose to become healthcare practitioners, we took an oath that serving patients would be our highest priority. But now we find ourselves putting our lives, and potentially the lives of our loved ones, at risk to protect and care for others during the COVID-19 pandemic. We accept that risk to protect you and to preserve life at all costs, but we cannot do it alone.

We need your help. Just as we partner together to provide care to you in good times and bad, we need Tennesseans to partner with us to defend each other against COVID-19 and prevent the spread across our neighborhoods, communities, and state. Contracting COVID-19 is preventable, if you will do your part to stay at home.

As health care providers, we thank the many Tennesseans who are choosing to stay at home. We urge you to continue doing so and stress to your friends, family members, and neighbors the importance of staying at home if they are not doing so. The key to slowing and preventing the spread of COVID-19 is to stay at home and practice physical distancing (at least 6 feet between yourself and others) if you must go out for essential items such as medicine and groceries.

By staying home, you, your family, and your loved ones are less likely to contract COVID-19. Ultimately, by staying home, you give our professions a fighting chance at having the equipment, time and resources necessary to take on the immense challenge of this pandemic. Thanks to Governor Lee's Executive Orders, all of us on your health care team have a much wider array of tools to keep you safe and healthy, even while you are staying at home. Unless you're experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or a medical emergency, please contact us first about your health needs before you come in for a visit or travel to the pharmacy.

While there might not be a "Safer at Home" order where you live, we on the front lines still need you to stay at home. Please only go out for essential items like medicine and groceries, until our communities are no longer at risk. This truly is an "all hands-on deck" effort, and we need you to partner with us to confront this public health emergency. Nurses, advance practice registered nurses, physician assistants, pharmacists, and other health care providers are staying at work for you. Please stay at home for us.

Your partners in health,

Tennessee Nurses Association
Tennessee Physician Assistant Association
Tennessee Pharmacist Association