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American Academy of Pediatrics**
P.O. Box 1219
Jefferson City, MO 65102
Missouriaap.org

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April 2, 2020

The Honorable Michael L. Parson
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 720
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Governor Parson:

As pediatricians licensed and practicing in Missouri, and speaking on behalf of our physician, resident and medical student members across the state, we write to you today to express the urgent need for a Statewide Shelter-In-Place declaration from your office.

We believe a Statewide Shelter-In-Place order is the best tool to prevent the continued spread of this virus throughout our state. While we understand local jurisdictions have issued such orders, it is concerning for our state that not all citizens are guided by a statewide, uniform order. During this stressful time, we believe it is essential for our state's government bodies, including municipal, county and state policymakers, to act as one cohesive unit and provide a statewide directive to protect all Missourians.

We understand the economic implications of such an order will be burdensome to all; however, we expect the negative health consequences and increased spread of the virus among our population to far outweigh any short-term, positive economic benefit of allowing parts of the state to continue operating as if "business is normal."

Current data indicates that our delay in action will lead to prolonging the time of the state's COVID-19 peak, thus lengthening the economic challenges. Acting now will allow our state to accelerate our response and contain its impact.

We ask you to expand your emergency declaration to include a statewide Shelter-In-Place order.

Regards,
Missouri Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics Board of Directors