[DATE]

Dear Mayor:

As your community hospital and healthcare leadership, we are calling for your action.

COVID viral transmission is increasing at an alarming rate and will push Arizona hospitals beyond capacity this month, according to a recent study1. The same study estimates an additional 600-1200 deaths will occur in Arizona by February if more aggressive public safety measures are not taken.

Your community hospital and healthcare providers are seeing this escalation, first-hand, in their own hospitals and recommend immediate actions to suppress the spread. The Chief Clinical Officers of the major Arizona hospital systems shared a list of recommended actions with Arizona Department of Health Services Director, Dr. Cara Christ, this week (attached) and we are writing to support that request.

Specifically, we believe the following actions are needed:

* Work with your community leaders to implement and **enforce** a local mask mandate if a mandate is not already in effect. This mandate should focus compliance and enforcement on businesses rather than individuals.
* Call for strict social distancing guidelines and a ban on large group events.
* AzHHA is also evaluating our options for advancing more aggressive state policy options. While the legal authority for local ordinances limiting restaurant, bar and gym services may not be clear, you may want to consider socializing the following actions within your community.:
* Closing all bars and nightclubs with Liquor License categories 6 and 7
* Requiring restaurants to restrict service to take out only

We recognize the state has not granted authority to cities to do any of the above, but ask for whatever support you can provide to back these additional public health measures. We will be holding a press conference next week and would greatly appreciate your participation. More details will be forthcoming. We are so close to vaccine availability – we must continue our diligence to prevent deaths so close to the vaccine finish line.

We thank you for the efforts you have taken to date to help Arizonans deal with this health crisis. As business executives ourselves, we understand the tenuous balance between economic health and physical health. We believe the above actions can preserve both.

Sincerely,

[Signature(s)]