



BOONE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY
PO BOX 1028, JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65102 – 800.869.6762 – BCMS@SOCKET.NET

23 November 2020

Dear County Commissioner:

In Boone County, our physicians are alarmed that our local hospitals are under enormous strain as our COVID hospitalizations surge. Hospitals may not be able accept new patients due to shortages of staffed ICU beds and ventilators, resulting in possible delayed necessary treatment.

This is concerning, as the general public may not be aware that our ICUs are filling up so early in the flu season. If things do not improve soon, regional hospitals may have to transfer patients in need of immediate or ICU care to Kansas, Oklahoma and other open hospitals. We do not want to be put in the position of delaying time-sensitive care, because we lack staff or resources.

The Boone County COVID-19 Information Hub shows that our healthcare system capacity has been in “yellow” status as of November 10. As flu season approaches, we are concerned that our local healthcare system capacity may rapidly progress to the “red” status, resulting in delay of care that could be potentially life-threatening.

As representatives of the physicians in Boone, Howard and Cooper Counties, we respectfully request:

- That you strongly encourage all citizens in your county to wear masks when in public, and consider a county-wide mask mandate;
- That you strongly encourage your citizens to get the influenza vaccination and;
- That you consider increasing the amount of your county's local CARES Act funding that is deployed to your local public health department. This funding is critical to supporting our case investigators and contact tracers, as well as supporting ongoing surveillance of both influenza and COVID-19.

Thank you for your attention and consideration, and please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

Alan E Hillard, MD,
BCMS President