Healthcare Leaders Encourage Support for Staying at Home

For more information: Jeannie Gaines at 334-651-3540 or Mallory Camerio at 334-954-2580.

Yesterday, Gov. Ivey held a news conference to call on Alabamians to place Ribbons of Hope on their mailboxes, trees and other outdoors spaces to honor the tremendous work being done by our frontline healthcare workers, the doctors, nurses, first responders and others behind the scene who are helping keep medical facilities open and needed healthcare services ongoing.

It’s these men and women who are continuing to go to work every day to ensure our communities get the care and services they need, and it’s for their sake that we have to do our part to control the spread of the virus.

Some have said the Governor’s Order to stay at home might have gone too far. They are concerned about our economy, and we are too. But, if we are to have a chance at slowing the spread of this virus, we must heed the warnings. Studies show that one person with the virus is expected to infect up to two more people. They also have proven that you don’t have to be showing symptoms to have the virus and spread it; estimates are that 25 to 50 percent of those with the virus are symptom free. Since this is a new strain of virus, we have no built in protections, so if left unchecked the number of cases and of deaths will increase.

A number of models are predicting fewer cases in Alabama than originally expected. This would not have been possible had Gov. Ivey and State Health Officer Dr. Scott Harris not taken bold steps to get Alabamians to stay home. These efforts could mean the difference between life and death, and we need to stay the course. Social distancing and staying at home are the best ammunition we have to protect ourselves and give our healthcare providers a fighting chance at having the equipment, time and resources needed to take on this immense challenge.

“Our healthcare providers are on the front lines and will continue to provide first contact, preventive care and ongoing acute care needed during this medical emergency,” said Dr. John S. Meigs, president of the Medical Association of the State of Alabama. “Physicians and all healthcare professionals have stayed at work for you. Please stay home for them.”

“Our hope is that in time we will look back on this crucial moment in our state’s history and agree that because of our state’s courageous actions and our citizens’ willingness to respond appropriately, we spared thousands of lives,” said Donald E. Williamson, MD, president of the Alabama hospital Association.

So, on behalf of the doctors, nurses, and other health care providers statewide, we thank the Governor and State Health Officer for their efforts to keep our state safe, and we implore all Alabamians to follow their guidance and stay home until it’s safe to return to our daily activities. Let’s slow the spread of the virus and remember to say a prayer, give a word of thanks and to tie a ribbon for our frontline heroes.

Don Williamson, MD, President
Alabama Hospital Association

Mark Jackson, Executive Director
Medical Association of the State of Alabama