**Sample Letter**

As the governor of the [insert state] chapter of the American College of Physicians (ACP), representing [add chapter membership] internal medicine physician specialists and medical students in our state, I am writing on behalf of our chapter to urge you to use evidence-based measures such as wearing masks and limiting crowds to prevent and contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Our chapter is part of ACP, which nationally represents 161,000 internal medicine physician specialists and medical student members. Our members are primary care physicians who are on the frontlines of the fight against COVID-19 and who provide care to millions of American with ongoing health care needs unrelated to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are deeply concerned about the rising tide of COVID-19 cases in the state.To date, there have been roughly 39 million confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the U.S. resulting in nearly 638,000 deaths. There is an urgency to undertake effective measures to limit the spread of the disease until a significant portion of the population is vaccinated. We have evidence that vaccination protects against COVID-19 transmission. The universal use of personal face masks that cover the mouth and nose is one of many measures necessary for achieving epidemic control. Adoption of masks on a large scale, when combined with other infection control measures (physical distancing, hand washing, staying home when ill), can reduce the risk of the transmission of COVID-19.

As frontline internal medicine physicians, we see the devastating toll COVID-19 has taken on our patients and their families, all of which could be mitigated if public health measures are put in place to limit the spread of this disease. Specifically, we urge you to implement the following recommendations as part of a comprehensive public health strategy to stem the spread of the disease:

* Require the use of masks in public facilities such as, work, schools, manufacturing and retail establishments, public transportation, and in other settings at high risk of COVID-19 transmission.
* Adequately and appropriately enforce mask requirements. Any incentives or penalties should be carefully weighed to ensure against potential negative impact on access and other measures of health equity. Officials should avoid issuing punitive fines and tickets at the individual level for noncompliance. Enforcement of mask requirements in workplaces, manufacturing and retail establishments should be focused at the business rather than personal level, in a manner that does not negatively impact access to care and other health equity measures.
* Subsidize or directly provide face masks to the public.

We are counting on your support to take the necessary action to protect the health and welfare of the people in our state. Thank you.

Sincerely,

[Insert name]

Governor

[Insert state] Chapter of the American College of Physicians