

March 23, 2020

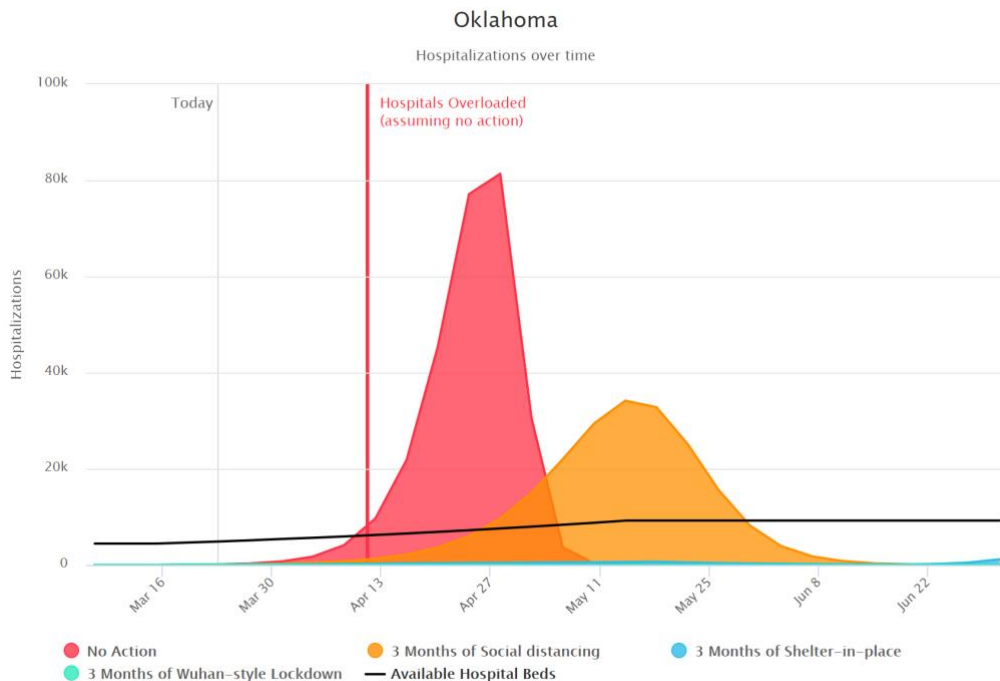
The Honorable Kevin Stitt
Governor, State of Oklahoma
Oklahoma State Capitol
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Dear Governor Stitt:

On behalf of the undersigned associations and representing thousands of healthcare workers across the state, we emergently urge you to significantly expand the Oklahoma’s “all hands on deck” efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. While we applaud the hard work and efforts your administration has taken thus far, experience from the rest of the country and globally show that these measures are not enough. More aggressive, proactive efforts are necessary if we are to stop the spread of this disease and prevent unnecessary death.

We urgently request that you issue an executive order that will implement a shelter-in-place policy and close non-essential businesses until this pandemic is truly contained.

Current CDC recommendations should be considered a bare minimum. Even so, these recommendations do include adopting a shelter-in-place policy for states with community transmission of COVID-19. As the epidemiological model below demonstrates, current efforts are insufficient to combat a pandemic of this magnitude. A shelter-in-place policy is what has proven to be the most effective method globally of combating the spread of COVID-19. At present, 15 states and numerous localities have adopted such measures. This is not just a solution in high-density states like California and New York. Closer to home, the state of Louisiana and the cities of Dallas, Kansas City and St. Louis have already adopted such policies.



Last Updated: March 19th

Highcharts.com

Hockey great Wayne Gretzky once said the secret to his success was to “skate to where the puck is going, not where it has been.” Likewise, Oklahoma’s leaders need to base such serious decisions not on the numbers and situation in which we find ourselves today (which we already know are inaccurate due to a lack of testing), but on where we could be in the coming weeks or, more appropriately, where we *want* to be in that time frame. The decisions you make in the coming days will have far-reaching impacts on the duration and severity of this crisis. Your office can exhibit decisive leadership now to not only mitigate the effects of current infection but to truly prevent the spread of this disease.

If we want to flatten the curve, we must get ahead of the curve.

There is no way to know exactly how much effort will be needed to end this plague. But we can assure you that history will be much more kind to those who did too much than those who did too little. The time for wait-and-see is over. The time for bold leadership is now. We respectfully urge you to issue the executive order needed to implement a shelter-in-place policy and save the lives of countless Oklahomans.

As Oklahoma’s leading voices representing the state’s doctors, nurses, hospitals, dentists, dental hygienists, long-term care providers and senior community living centers, we stand ready to assist your administration in implementing this and other policies that will help get us through this crisis.

Sincerely:

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists—Oklahoma Chapter
Digestive Disease Specialists, Inc.
LeadingAge Oklahoma
McBride Clinic
Oklahoma Academy of Family Physicians
Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology
Oklahoma Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
Oklahoma Association of Nurse Anesthetists
Oklahoma Association of Nurse Practitioners
Oklahoma Chapter-American Academy of Pediatrics
Oklahoma Chapter-American College of Surgeons
Oklahoma Dental Association
Oklahoma Dental Hygienists’ Association
Oklahoma Hospital Association
Oklahoma Nurses Association
Oklahoma Psychiatric Physicians Association
Oklahoma Society of Anesthesiologists
Oklahoma State Medical Association