



415 Market Street, Ste. 210
Harrisburg, PA 17101

(877) ER-DOC-PA
info@pacep.net
www.pacep.net

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April 21, 2020

VIA EMAIL FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

The Honorable Governor Tom Wolf
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
225 Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf,

On behalf of over 1,900 Emergency Physicians in the Commonwealth, the Pennsylvania College of Emergency Physicians (PACEP) respectfully requests you to issue an executive order to provide liability immunity for physicians and healthcare workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Across Pennsylvania, our front-line healthcare workers are at risk for sacrificing their lives to provide care to the many patients affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. There is a lack of evidence regarding the proper management of COVID-19. Consequently, healthcare professionals are being forced to perform their duties with limited resources in hospitals while other patients are being seen remotely via telemedicine to limit exposure in the hospital. As a result of this effort, our members have legitimate concern that the strain being put on the health care system in the Commonwealth could result in potential civil and criminal liability.

As you are aware, Governors of other states such as New York and Illinois have issued executive orders to provide immunity to individuals and entities supporting their government's response to the COVID pandemic. Similar legislation has also been enacted in Connecticut and New Jersey.

Front-line healthcare workers like our emergency medicine physician members will continue to provide excellent care to those Pennsylvanians affected by this life-threatening pandemic. Our hope is that you will consider issuing an executive order to protect our health care workers from liability during this pandemic.

Sincerely,

Shawn M. Quinn, DO, FACEP
President
Pennsylvania College of Emergency Physicians