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Louisiana Reaches Grim Milestone in Fight Against COVID-19

Today, our state has reached a grim and tragic milestone. According to the latest update provided by the Louisiana Department of Health, over 3,000 Louisianans have now died due to complications associated with the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

Here at the Louisiana Primary Care Association and on behalf of our 39 Community Health Center members, we offer our most sincere and heartfelt condolences to the families and friends who mourn their loss. So often in today's data-driven healthcare world, we can get lost in the numbers, trend lines, and statistics. It is important that we engage in reflection. These 3,000 individuals were mothers, fathers, grandparents, friends, and neighbors – all were valuable members of our community. They leave behind grieving families, many of whom were unable to properly say goodbye or even hold a memorial service.

While we can take satisfaction in the progress Louisiana has made in containing COVID-19, we must keep in mind that this pandemic is far from over. In fact, according to most public health professionals, we are still in the early stages of truly understanding this virus. Many estimate that we are at least a year away from administering a safe and effective vaccine.

What we do know is that wearing a face mask, social distancing, and practicing proper hand washing are proven methods to reduce the spread of COVID-19. We are heartened to see that the vast majority of Louisianans are taking these precautions seriously – but, let's face it, too many are not. Some people still don't fully grasp this serious situation and their responsibility to take precautions, if not for themselves then for their vulnerable family members and friends.

In their honor and in respect to those we have lost to this pandemic, we urge all Louisianans to follow the advice of healthcare professionals. No one wants to wear a facemask in public - they are uncomfortable, awkward, and hot in our Louisiana heat. Even so, wearing a facemask has proven to be the most effective way to contain the spread of COVID-19. Remember: it's not just about you. Wearing a facemask and taking precautions shows others that you care about their health and safety.

We will beat this virus. "Normal" life will one day return. In the meantime, let us act responsibly so that we can all get through this together.

About the Louisiana Primary Care Association

The Louisiana Primary Care Association (LPCA) represents 39 federally funded, private, non-profit and public Community Health Centers (and 3 Look-Alikes) across Louisiana that serve over 444,000 patients annually. LPCA promotes community-based health services through advocacy, education, and collaboration with community partners. Our goal is to ensure that every Louisianan has access to affordable, quality, primary care services. For more information, visit www.LPCA.net.