



*Bringing physicians together for a healthier Ohio*

## **News Release - IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **OSMA President Concerned About COVID-19 Impact on Minorities**

With national healthcare leaders confirming data showing COVID-19 disproportionately affecting African-Americans, Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA) president Anthony Armstrong, MD is urging minorities to adhere to state orders and guidelines put in place to guard against the spread of the virus.

Dr. Armstrong, a Toledo OB-GYN, on Thursday joined Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine and Ohio Department of Health Director Amy Acton, MD for the governor's statewide COVID-19 pandemic update. Dr. Armstrong urged state leaders to gather race- and ethnicity-based coronavirus data to better understand how the virus is spreading.

The following statement can be attributed to Dr. Armstrong:

*"The data coming from New York, Detroit, Chicago and other large American cities, not dissimilar from cities we have in Ohio, shows the virus is spreading disproportionately among minority communities. It is highly important that our state health departments, supported by our federal government, gather data that includes race and ethnicity so that we better understand how the virus spreads. This could be critically important for us to develop more effective strategies to mitigate the spread and save lives.*

*"There is no evidence that suggests that minorities, especially African-Americans, are more susceptible to getting the virus. However, we know that prior underlying medical conditions that are more prevalent in African-American communities, such as, diabetes, asthma, and hypertension, could exacerbate the COVID-19 symptoms and make recovery more difficult.*

*"While we do not have a coronavirus cure, we do know that the orders put in place by our governor and health director are reducing the number of people who are infected with the virus in Ohio. I implore all Ohioans – regardless of your race or ethnicity – to adhere to the stay-at-home, social distancing, and masks in public orders and guidelines. Also, if you are traveling to Ohio from outside our state, please be courteous and self-quarantine for at least 14-days before interacting with others."*

For more information, please visit [www.OSMA.org/coronavirus](http://www.OSMA.org/coronavirus) or [www.coronavirus.ohio.gov](http://www.coronavirus.ohio.gov).

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#### Our Mission Statement/ Who We Are

"The Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA) is dedicated to empowering physicians, residents and medical students to advocate on behalf of their patients and profession." The OSMA is the largest and oldest statewide physician-led association in Ohio. We are affiliated nationally with the American Medical Association and locally with county medical societies. Visit us at [www.osma.org](http://www.osma.org).