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PAFP president: Keep in touch with your family physician

(HARRISBURG, PA. May 1, 2020) The Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians (PAFP), representing more than 5,500 family medicine physicians, residents, and students, is reminding patients – especially those under care for chronic conditions – to keep in touch with their family physicians.

Family physician practices are adapting to respond to patient needs quickly, efficiently, and safely. Telehealth, eliminating waiting rooms, and a variety of different practice management tools are being implemented amid the COVID-19 pandemic to make sure patients get the care they need.

“Pennsylvanians have been outstanding in adhering to stay-at-home orders from Gov. Wolf, and the guidance is clear: if you think you are suffering with COVID-19 related symptoms, you must call before showing up at your primary care physician’s office,” said PAFP President Tracey Conti, MD. “We understand your fears and concerns, and we feel them too. But at the same time, if you have been under the care of a family physician, it is important you maintain that relationship, especially in management of chronic ailments,” said Dr. Conti.

“Every family physician, independent or as part of a health system, is doing things differently, so patients should not hesitate to pick up their phone and contact their family physician with

questions or for guidance,” said Conti. “This pandemic is so devastating to many, but let us not lose ground in the treatment of those whose medical issues have been effectively managed. Lapses in those treatment plans will be detrimental in the long run.”

The Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians and its Foundation supports its members (including nearly 80 percent of Pennsylvania family physicians) through advocacy and education to ensure physician-coordinated, personalized, and comprehensive quality health care for every Pennsylvanian. The Academy and its Foundation are the leading influential resource among family physicians and physicians in training in Pennsylvania; the primary voice on health care issues with state legislative and administrative branches of government, media and professional health organizations; and the leader on health care issues in the community.

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