



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR RESPIRATORY CARE
9425 North MacArthur Blvd., Suite 100, Irving, TX 75063, [972] 243-2272, Fax [972] 484-2720
<http://www.aarc.org>, E-mail: info@aarc.org

December 18, 2020

The Honorable Joe Biden
President-Elect
United States of America
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

The Honorable Kamala Harris
Vice President-Elect
United States of America
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear President-Elect Biden and Vice President-Elect Harris:

On behalf of the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC), we appreciate the enormous task the incoming administration faces in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to take swift and decisive actions to control further outbreaks and slow its progression.

We are reaching out to you to ask that a representative from the AARC serve in an advisory capacity as part of your coronavirus team. The AARC is a national professional organization with membership of 45,000 respiratory therapists and whose organizational activities impact over 150,000 practicing respiratory therapists across the country based on our 2014 human resource survey. Respiratory therapists have served on the front lines of the COVID-19 response, and a representative of the respiratory care profession can bring a fresh, new perspective on the lessons learned and best practices established in combating the coronavirus and saving lives.

Respiratory therapists are critical care experts who are in closest proximity to the patient managing their airways and supporting respiration in the intensive care unit. They are the essential frontline experts in invasive and noninvasive ventilatory management working together with physicians and nurses to respond to the greatest needs of those infected with COVID-19. Their knowledge can be an asset to your team.

We are encouraged that the availability of a vaccine to combat this deadly disease is now available and that frontline workers, such as respiratory therapists, will be among those who are first on the list to be vaccinated. We also recognize the reality that it will take time to see a decline in hospital admissions and the numbers of individuals who test positive for COVID-19. Therefore, we respectfully ask that you and your incoming administration give serious consideration to including a representative from the AARC on your coronavirus team.

As you work with a variety of stakeholders in the health care system, the respiratory care profession with its knowledge and training in pulmonary medicine can offer you valuable insight into experiences and challenges that can help formulate future decision-making as your COVID-19 response and other health care policies continue to evolve. We look forward to working with you and please contact me at sheri.tooley@aarc.org with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sheri Tooley'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sheri Tooley BSRT, RRT, RRT-NPS, AE-C, CPFT, FAARC
President