

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 29, 2020

ASPPH: Trump's WHO Decision is Politics at its Most Dangerous

Sandro Galea, MD, PhD, MPH, chair of the Board of Directors of the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) and dean of the Boston University School of Public Health, issued the following statement on President Donald Trump's announcement that he will withdraw the United States from membership in the World Health Organization (WHO):

"This decision is politics at its most dangerous and a blatant effort to shift blame for the failure of the United States to appropriately prepare for a pandemic or to quickly deal with disease's inevitable outbreak in the US. To the patients suffering with Covid-19 and their families, the issues of paramount importance are: 1) what can be done to cure those suffering with the disease, and 2) what can be done to ensure that other patients and families don't have to endure this pandemic, or the next one that might occur.

"The answers to these critical questions can only be found through global collaboration and cooperation. Covid-19 has proven – once again – that the US is not an island and that no wall, political nostrum, or insulting tweet can protect our citizens from a relentless virus. Our only long-term hope is to fully engage with public health professionals world-wide to share and expand our scientific knowledge about the virus and undertake collaborative actions to protect the world community. The WHO has played a critical role in such collaborative action since it was created 72 years ago.

"ASPPH and the American academic public health community will continue to engage with the WHO, regardless of the official membership status of the United States. Our students, faculty, and staff will continue to strive to improve health for everyone, everywhere."

For more information: Tony Mazzaschi; tmazzaschi@aspph.org; cell 202-809-5469

Link to: [ASPPH Member COVID-19 Coverage](#)