

COVID-19 TOWN HALL Q&A – January 13, 2021

QUESTION TOPIC INDEX <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health of the Public and Science • Communications 	
<p align="center">Thank you for joining our informative discussion with Lalita Abhyankar, MD, MHS, and Kyle Bradford Jones, MD, FAAFP.</p>	
MEMBER QUESTIONS	AAFP RESPONSES
HEALTH OF THE PUBLIC AND SCIENCE	
What mental health and well-being options are available for family physicians if we're worried about restrictions on our medical licenses?	This question was answered live during the Town Hall session. Please see response at the 21-minute mark in the video replay .
What is your advice for dealing with an angry patient? This dynamic seems even more relevant today with patients dealing with multiple stressors.	This question was answered live during the Town Hall session. Please see response at the 25-minute mark in the video replay .
Can you offer any tips to safely and carefully approach fellow colleagues when we have concerns about their mental health?	This question was answered live during the Town Hall session. Please see response at the 26-minute mark in the video replay .
Can you offer any advice about how to address grief in the office setting (beyond simple empathy)? And what is your advice on addressing complicated grief, including how to address the topic with patients?	This question was answered live during the Town Hall session. Please see response at the 29-minute mark in the video replay .
Patients are typically comfortable talking to their family physicians, allowing us to advise and counsel them. However, other physicians who are our patients have a harder time being patients. How can we address that?	This question was answered live during the Town Hall session. Please see response at the 34-minute mark in the video replay .
For physicians with at-home learning children, can you offer advice about how you are handling the learners' needs while also taking care of your own?	This question was answered live during the Town Hall session. Please see response at the 36-minute mark in the video replay .
Do you recommend using burnout questionnaires weekly to all colleagues or only for those who we consider to be at risk for mental health issues?	This question was answered live during the Town Hall session. Please see response at the 41-minute mark in the video replay .

<p><i>For Dr. Stewart:</i> Previously being in the military, you must have encountered stressful, emotional situations. What tools does the military use to help deal with stressors?</p>	<p>This question was answered live during the Town Hall session. Please see response at the 43-minute mark in the video replay.</p>
<p><i>For Dr. Jones:</i> What role do you see religion playing in managing mental illness?</p>	<p>This question was answered live during the Town Hall session. Please see response at the 45-minute mark in the video replay.</p>
<p>COMMUNICATIONS</p>	
<p>I live in an area where there is not a mask mandate and many people in the community believe vaccines are a way to microchip citizens and that the election was stolen. Our area has been a hot zone for cases for months, but events like concerts, rodeos, and sports continue as if there is no pandemic. While my patients wear masks in our office, I'm having trouble being supportive of their frustrations. Can you offer advice for physicians living in an area where COVID-19 is still considered a hoax and wearing a mask is considered a violation of your rights?</p>	<p>The AAFP has been involved in combatting misinformation from the beginning of the pandemic, as well as advocating for scientific responses to the virus with legislators. We hope the resources below will help you communicate with your patients.</p> <p>The AAFP's COVID-19 webpage is continually updated with information and resources for members.</p> <p>The AAFP endorsed legislation, the Community Immunity During COVID-19 Act, to provide funding for state and local public health organizations to encourage partnerships with health care professionals, including primary care physicians, to increase immunizations and to require the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to issue evidence-based patient counseling guidance for physicians.</p> <p>The AAFP sent a joint letter to Vice President Mike Pence and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Alex Azar calling for transparency and reliance on science to combat the growing sense of mistrust and misinformation.</p> <p>AAFP Senior Vice President for Advocacy, Practice Advancement, and Policy Stephanie Quinn, wrote a blog about family physicians' efforts to combat misinformation.</p> <p>Through familydoctor.org, the AAFP conducts consumer public relation campaigns to increase public awareness of the importance of immunizations and to help move patients from vaccine hesitancy to vaccine confidence by emphasizing that vaccination is a selfless act of prevention that protects those who are more vulnerable and builds a community of immunity. Information and resources on familydoctor.org can be found here and resources for physicians to use in their offices can be found here.</p>