



Congress approved an emergency coronavirus (COVID-19) spending bill and is both working on another proposal to address additional health and economic issues and planning a third package. The AAFP supported the supplemental funding bill and issued recommendations for immediate action.

Currently, the Government Relations Division is managing feedback requests from congressional offices, chapters, and individual family physicians.

Therefore, we created a toolkit with essential information and tips for engaging federal policymakers.

Here are the latest federal AAFP communications on coronavirus

1. March 2 – AAFP [Letter](#) to HHS Secretary Alex Azar
2. March 5 – AAFP [statement](#) applauding coronavirus spending package; urging coordination
3. March 10 – AAFP [Letter](#) to the White House’s Coronavirus Taskforce
4. March 10 – Getting Paid [blog](#) on new telehealth rules and procedures for testing
5. March 11 – Academy [Letter](#) to Congress urging coordination
6. March 11 – AAFP News [article](#) on new COVID19 member resources
7. March 13 - AAFP [Letter](#) to Congress on COVID19 priorities

During this time of national uncertainty with the spread of COVID-19, there remain opportunities to direct congressional attention to additional strategies. Hearing from family physicians on the ground will help inform their decisions and result in policies that help you and your patients. Here are ways to get involved:

Visit your Member of Congress’ webpage to receive updates

Find your [elected official](#) and visit their webpage to sign up for email alerts.

Participate in a Town Hall

Many Members of Congress will be holding virtual town halls and are eager to hear from constituents but especially medical professionals. Consider attending and using these talking points to raise your concerns about the impact of COVID-19 on family physicians and your patients. To learn about these opportunities, visit your Member of Congress’ webpage and sign up for email alerts.

Send a Speak Out Letter

The [SpeakOut](#) letter urges members of Congress to increase testing and to improve coordination efforts with America’s frontline physicians. Please Urge lawmakers to support essential protocols in the nation’s health care response. Sign in is required.

Follow and Engage with Elected Officials and Public Health Leaders on Social Media

Policymakers are increasingly sharing local updates via social media. We urge you to use this as a resource for important updates.

Consider following: @WHO, @HHSgov, @CDCgov, @CMSgov, @US_FDA, @Surgeon_General, @SecAzar, @CDCDirector, @SeemaCMS

Legislators engage on social media therefore make sure to follow them on Facebook and Instagram and consider tweeting your member of Congress.

Sample tweet: Family physicians are on the #frontline of the #CoronavirusPandemic - we need supplies and we need answers asap! @POTUS @realDonaldTrump @Mike_Pence @VP @senatemajldr @SenSchumer @SpeakerPelosi @GOPLeader

Stay Updated on State Policy

Governors are requiring insurers to waive copays and other out-of-pocket expenses for COVID-19 testing, establishing special enrollment periods for state-based exchanges, and changing Medicaid policies to allow for reimbursement on home visits, virtual consultations, and allowing higher quantity pharmacy refills to limit visits. To learn more about what's happening in your state, contact the Center for State Policy or your Chapter Executive.

Be a Resource

Policymakers want to hear from you! They are currently organizing forums to better understand how to address our nation's health care needs. Please call or email your representative and offer to be a resource on health care issues. (For more information, to go [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov) and the AAFP's [Speakout](#) page).

Also, to share your account of what is occurring in your community or practice, please email us at policy@aafp.org. This should not be a substitute for engaging in AAFP's COVID Rapid Response Member Exchange or reaching out to your legislators.

Tap into the AAFP's Member Resources

The AAFP will continue sharing up-to-the minute updates on organizational activities.

- Follow AAFP on social media ([Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [AAFP News](#))
- Visit the AAFP's COVID-19 Resource [Page](#)
- Join the Family Medicine Action Network

Follow AAFP Government Relations Staff on Twitter*

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*NOTE: these are personal accounts and do not represent official communications from the AAFP