



## **Speak Out to Share Your COVID-19 Concerns** Urge Your Government Officials to Get Needed Supplies to Front Lines

March 13, 2020

Dear colleagues,

It has been a challenging and somewhat frustrating week as it relates to COVID-19. The World Health Organization officially declared COVID-19 a pandemic, and events across the country are being canceled in an effort to limit the spread of the disease.

Overwhelmingly, we have been hearing from all of you about your concern and frustration related to the limited availability of test kits and personal protective equipment; lack of clarity around testing protocols; and the absence of coordinated communication between federal agencies, public health departments and the medical community.

The [AAFP is actively advocating on your behalf](#) around these issues through communications with the U.S. Congress and administration. With our [Speak Out tool](#), we invite you to join us in urging lawmakers to support integrated, transparent and practical protocols in the nation's health care response. Using Speak Out, you can quickly and easily send a message to your members of Congress and make your voice heard.

Together, we can make sure officials in Washington, D.C., hear from family physicians on the front lines of our nation's COVID-19 defense that the current response from the U.S. government is not acceptable or adequate.

I also encourage you to continue to use the various resources we are updating for you and your patients:

- Our [dedicated COVID-19 resource on AAFP.org](#) contains the most recent information you need that is aligned with the CDC and focused squarely on family medicine. We have recently added information about payment and telehealth.
- The [COVID-19 Rapid Response Member Exchange community](#) allows you to have real-time conversations with one another, ask questions and share information.
- The [COVID-19 page on Familydoctor.org](#) contains evidence-based information for patients. You can confidently refer your patients here for advice on prevention, education about symptoms and more.

Today, we made the difficult decision to cancel all in-person AAFP conferences and large meetings scheduled through the end of May. If you were registered for any of these events, you should receive, if you haven't already, an email with more information and options for digital content where feasible.

**BE AWARE OF SCAMS!** We have started hearing about scams using the coronavirus situation for financial gain or to gather sensitive personal information. Please [exercise caution](#) when opening email

**STRONG MEDICINE FOR AMERICA**

attachments or clicking on links from outside organizations, even if those organizations appear to be reputable.

Thank you for everything you are doing to serve patients and communities during this rapidly evolving situation.

Sincerely,

Gary L. LeRoy, MD  
President  
American Academy of Family Physicians