

COVID-19: PPE Ordering, Advocacy Support and a Special Tribute to FPs The AAFP Is Here to Support You as You Serve Your Patients and Community

May 21, 2020

Dear colleagues,

Here we are — another week of fighting COVID-19. When I sent my first email to all of you about this virus in early March, I don't think I imagined that nearly three months later, I would still be sending you regular COVID-19 emails. Throughout this time, the AAFP has remained committed to advocating on your behalf and sharing resources to help you with patient care, practice management and more.

PPE Purchases Through Amazon

We know that access to personal protective equipment has been a struggle for many of you throughout the pandemic. A few weeks ago, I shared that we were working with Amazon on a possible way for you to order PPE. Late last week, we received the great news that Amazon Business has opened its priority access for COVID-19 supplies to individual physicians. If you are interested in purchasing PPE through Amazon, visit this recent [AAFP News story](#) for details.



NRN Survey: COVID-19's Impact on Family Medicine

The AAFP National Research Network (NRN) has partnered with the Larry A. Green Center and the Robert Graham Center to conduct weekly surveys of physicians to better understand and measure the capacity of physicians, staff and practices during the COVID-19 pandemic and their response to it. The survey's goals are to learn how physicians and their practices are being affected by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic (for example, questions relate to financial implications, treatment of COVID-19, and the overall impact of the pandemic, etc.) and follow trends over time. [Weekly reports](#)

highlighting key findings and emerging themes are now available for weeks one through six of this survey.

The survey is distributed each Friday and takes about five minutes to complete. We would appreciate your participation in this research. To begin receiving the weekly survey, please [share your email address](#).

Physician Immigration Letters Sent to Congress

In keeping with the AAFP's long term-support for international medical graduates and the key role they play in the primary care delivery system in this country, the AAFP sent letters to the [House](#) and [Senate](#) sponsors of the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act (H.R. 6788). If passed, this act would recapture 15,000 unused employment-based physician immigrant visas from

prior fiscal years for use during the COVID-19 pandemic to help address physician shortages in areas hit hard by the crisis. The letters also call for reauthorizing and expanding the Conrad 30 J-1 visa waiver program beyond the crisis.

We need more family physicians fighting this pandemic, and many of you contacted us about the importance of this issue. We appreciate your thoughtful advocacy in this crucial area. You can continue to make your voice heard on issues of importance to family medicine and to share the impact COVID-19 is having on your practice. With our [Speak Out tool](#), you can easily contact your members of Congress.

I also want to share a few important reminders with you:

- **COVID-19 microsite:** Don't forget to visit [the AAFP's COVID-19 microsite](#) regularly as we continue to add new resources, tools and advocacy information.
- **Prescription medications for COVID-19:** This week, hydroxychloroquine has been back in the news as a drug that could potentially treat or prevent COVID-19. As we know, there are no proven treatments or preventive medications for COVID-19. In April, the AAFP issued a [policy on the use of prescription medications for COVID-19](#). In addition, we have a few resources on [familydoctor.org](#) that you may find helpful if you get questions from patients, so be sure to check those out.
- **Town Hall replay:** At last night's Virtual Town Hall, our guest was fellow family physician Daniel Lewis, MD. He shared his experiences as a doctor-turned-patient when he found himself hospitalized with COVID-19. It was a powerful and insightful session, so if you missed it, check out the replay on our [COVID-19 communications page](#). As a reminder, the weekly Virtual Town Hall is available for one [live](#) or [enduring](#) CME credit each week, so be sure to evaluate the session and claim your credit.
- **Webinar series:** Our Friday evening COVID-19 webinar series is a one-hour, live, online CME session that provides you with an opportunity for real-time interaction with physician experts and offers a chance to ask questions. This week's session focuses on what you need to know about COVID-19 testing, so join us tomorrow, May 22, at 7 p.m. CDT. Visit the [COVID-19 CME page](#) for more details.

This past Tuesday was World Family Doctor Day. The AAFP and our staff are thankful for you every day, but in light of everything you've gone through and continue to go through fighting this pandemic, our staff recorded a special message to honor all of you. This week, I will leave the final word to them to share [our immense gratitude](#).

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