



# PLANNING and PREPAREDNESS

RESPONDING TO THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

RESOURCES FOR PHYSICIANS AND PATIENTS



MASSACHUSETTS  
MEDICAL SOCIETY

March 19, 2020

## Massachusetts Medical Society leading the way

The MMS will continue to monitor developments related to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and the response by state and federal agencies. For current information, including updates from the NEJM, visit the dedicated page on the MMS website: [massmed.org/covid-19](https://massmed.org/covid-19).

If you have questions, we will bring them to the appropriate stakeholder for an answer. Please send questions to [president@massmed.org](mailto:president@massmed.org).

---

## Public Health

### MMS call with Mass. DPH: Answers and takeaways

As you're aware, the Massachusetts Medical Society requested an opportunity for its members to engage leaders from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health around COVID-19. We are grateful that the DPH afforded us this opportunity. Tuesday, March 17, more than 1,300 MMS members joined a call with Commissioner Monica Bharel, Dr. Larry Madoff, Medical Director of the DPH Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences; and Dr. Catherine Brown, State Epidemiologist. For a detailed summary of that call, including pertinent information on personal protective equipment, testing and prevention, and treatment guidance, [click here](#). For a transcript of questions raised by your peers and the corresponding answers provided by DPH leaders, [click here](#).

Please note, the Medical Society is continuing to communicate frequently with DPH. We are actively curating questions from our members and will work with DPH to provide

answers and relay those answers to physicians via our communications channels, including this e-newsletter. If you have a question, please send it to the [MMS Department of Health Policy and Public Health](#).

---

### Pharmacists & opioid misuse disorder medication: (3/18/20) DPH order

DPH issued an order allowing pharmacists and pharmacy interns – licensed in good-standing – to administer certain medications (methadone and buprenorphine) for the treatment of opioid misuse disorder for the duration of the state of emergency, which will allow nurses to be redeployed to deal with the COVID-19 crisis. The order is limited to the administration of such drugs in federally-certified opioid treatment programs and certified acute treatment services. [Read more »](#)

---

### Physician Assistants: (3/18/20) DPH order

DPH issued an order to allow for the flexible reassignment of Physicians Assistants. Employers may designate new supervising physicians. Re-assigned PAs will not need to create new prescriptive/scope of practice guidelines for assignments pursuant to this order; provided that appropriate records will be kept. Newly designated supervising physicians are empowered to determine what scope of care the PA is qualified and competent to perform under adequate supervision. [Read more »](#)

---

## Practice Management

---

### New BORIM updates: License renewals, details for expedited licensing; resident moonlighting

BORIM recently released additional information pertaining to expansions of physician licensure during the current COVID-19 State of Emergency in order to meet current health care needs, including processes for:

- A 90-day extension of physician licensure renewal dates for any physician whose license comes up for renewal during the State of Emergency that was declared on March 10, 2020.
- Out-of-state physicians to become licensed in Massachusetts. Out-of-state physicians who hold an active full, unlimited and unrestricted medical license in another state may apply to receive a license that will be valid only during the State of Emergency. Applications for such licenses can be [downloaded here](#).
- Recently retired physicians to become re-licensed in Massachusetts: physicians who have retired within the past year may reactivate their license by filling out the [application here](#).
- Additional moonlighting authority for residents: During this State of Emergency, those with limited licenses are able to engage in patient care outside their specialty training program so long as the activities they participate in are (1) directed by a faculty member of their program; (2) occur at the facility listed on their license or an approved affiliate; and (3) are in the same specialty as their training program or are approved by the program director as a training area related to their specialty.
- Health care institutions and organizations can seek an expedited request of an application by e-mailing such requests to [emergency.medical.license@mass.gov](mailto:emergency.medical.license@mass.gov).

---

## Telemedicine vendor options

As COVID-19 continues to be a driving factor in the push toward increased adoption and implementation of telemedicine, the Massachusetts Medical Society has compiled some helpful information on options available to you. Please note, the Medical Society has not vetted these companies and no recommendation or endorsement should be implied. [Read more »](#)

---

## ALERT: COVID-19-related soliciting

We want to bring to your attention that we have been made aware of individuals and corporations contacting physicians' offices with various promotions relative to the diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19. In some instances, attempts are being made to rush physicians into signing contracts that may not, in our opinion, be in their best interests. Please review any such contacts with due diligence and with legal advice. The MMS has not endorsed any products and no inference should be drawn that the MMS has endorsed any COVID-19-related goods or services.

---

Washington system using “hospital at home” remote patient monitoring  
Providence, the largest health care provider in the state of Washington, is treating the first U.S. patients diagnosed with COVID-19. The providers are taking innovative steps, including remote monitoring via telehealth. Follow the link below to read an article by Lola Butcher from HFMA and hear from Dr. Amy Compton-Phillips, executive vice president and chief clinical officer at Providence. [Read more »](#)

---

Follow us on:

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

---

© 2020 Massachusetts Medical Society. All rights reserved.  
860 Winter Street, Waltham Woods Corporate Center, Waltham, MA 02451-1411  
781-893-4610 | 781-893-3800 | Member Information Hotline: 800-322-2303 x7311

To ensure delivery of all Massachusetts Medical Society communications, please add [vitalsignsthisweek@mms.org](mailto:vitalsignsthisweek@mms.org) to your email address book or Safe Sender List. If you are still having problems receiving our communications, see our [white-listing page](#) for more details.

[Subscribe by Email](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Manage Your Profile](#) | [Forward to a Friend](#) | [Advertise](#)