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April 3, 2020

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).

As a reminder, physicians may continue to email questions to the MMS for assistance. For information on developments related to the COVID-19 response and resources available from the state and federal agencies, send questions to [dph@mms.org](mailto:dph@mms.org). For assistance with practice management and sustainability, telemedicine, and payer relations, send questions to [pprc@mms.org](mailto:pprac@mms.org).

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## Personal Wellness & Well-being

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### A video message from Dr. Bombaugh

Massachusetts Medical Society president, Dr. Maryanne C. Bombaugh, created a [short video](#) (2 min. 30 sec.) for our members and everyone in the health care workforce confronting COVID-19. Dr. Bombaugh urges those on the front lines to take the time to practice some form of self-care and reminds our members and all health care workers to make use of the Medical Society's [online tools and resources](#).

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## Practice Management

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## BCBSMA, MAHP provide answers to telemed coverage, reimbursement FAQs

In response to your frequently asked questions about telemedicine coverage and reimbursement, the Massachusetts Medical Society sought answers directly from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts (BCBSMA) and the Massachusetts Association of Health Plans (MAHP). See links below for detailed answers, as well as links to MAHP provider and patient communications and the MAHP detailed coverage and coding grid.

- FAQs for MAHP plans (4/1/2020). [Learn more »](#)
- FAQ for BCBSMA (4/1/2020). [Learn more »](#)
- Links to MAHP plan's provider communications and patient communications (4/1/2020). [Learn more »](#)
- [Click here](#) for plan-specific coverage and coding details for COVID-19 and non-COVID-19-related services for MAHP plans.

For questions about telemedicine or financial sustainability, please contact [pprc@mms.org](mailto:pprc@mms.org).

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## Paycheck Protection Program: Applications open today!

The [Paycheck Protection Program](#) prioritizes millions of Americans employed by small businesses by authorizing up to \$349 billion toward job retention and certain other expenses. Small businesses and eligible nonprofit organizations, veterans organizations, and tribal businesses described in the Small Business Act, as well as individuals who are self-employed or are independent contractors, are eligible if they also meet program size standards. Under this program:

- Eligible recipients may qualify for a loan up to \$10 million determined by eight weeks of prior average payroll plus an additional 25% of that amount.
- Loan payments will be deferred for six months.

- If you maintain your workforce, SBA will forgive the portion of the loan proceeds that are used to cover the first eight weeks of payroll and certain other expenses following loan origination.

Physicians can also apply to the [Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program](#). The MMS will continue to investigate and advocate for additional financial sustainability resources for physicians and their practices.

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## Your Medical Society In The News

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### MMS provides commentary in Washington Post, Boston Globe

During the last week, the Medical Society has offered and been asked to share the physicians' perspective in multiple major media outlets. Dr. Bombaugh spoke with the [Washington Post](#) about preparation and preparedness. In [The Boston Globe](#), the Medical Society expressed concern over the spike in the number of hospital employees stricken by COVID-19, and we [spoke with the ABC affiliate](#) in Southeastern MA and Providence about bolstering the number of health care workers. Additionally, our District Medical Societies this week deployed a [statewide media push](#) urging the public to stay at home and practice social distancing if they must leave their homes.

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## More Educational Resources

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### COVID-19 and physician wellness CME available

#### **Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)**

Free CME - Adaptive learning module on COVID-19, from AACC Learning Lab for Laboratory Medicine on NEJM Knowledge+. [Read more »](#)

#### **Restoring Well-Being to the Medical Profession**

This course discusses various strategies that work to replenish your internal resources and to handle the challenges of medical practice. [Read more »](#)

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