

Many practices are facing difficult decisions in light of COVID-19, including whether to remain open, and how to best protect the patients they serve. This epidemic is fluid, and it is important to consult with local, state, and national authorities for recommendations and the possibility of additional ordered closures.

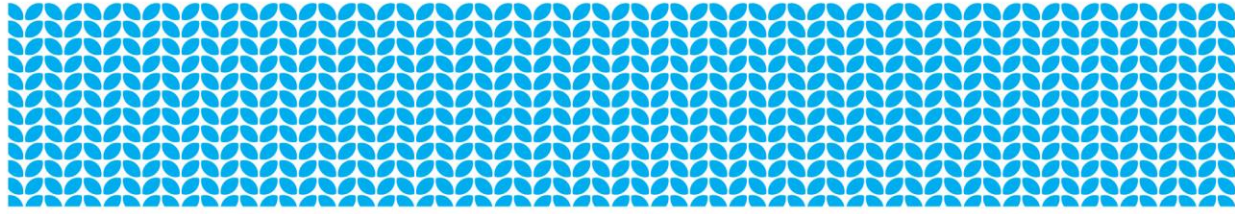
Many regulatory boards and state ordinances, along with the Centers for Disease Control, recommend that all non-essential (e.g. not emergency or acute care) health services be suspended immediately. The nature of our healthcare professions makes social distancing of 6 feet or more nearly impossible.

That being said, some have chosen to continue seeing the public, with important safety provisions in place. Considerations include:

- Regularly and thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand cleaner, including between each patient. Make these resources available to all clinic staff and patients. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Employ rigorous hygiene standard in your clinic, at every point of patient contact. This includes sanitizing treatment tables, desks, armchairs and face cradles between each treatment. Allow for ample spacing between patients in your schedule to allow for additional cleaning of equipment, and to minimize the number of individuals your patients come in contact with in your office.
- Limit patient visits to those who are acute/urgent, and essential personnel who are vital to managing the pandemic (e.g. healthcare providers, police officers).
- Advise any patient who exhibits symptoms not to come to your office, but instead call their primary care provider or seek out a drive-through testing site (and know where to refer individuals to in your community). Encourage them to rest, stay hydrated, and self-isolate as they are able.
- If you have the ability utilize telemedicine to assist with patient care, consider doing so.
- You (and any staff you have) should stay home if you feel sick.

While some have argued that it is important to keep patients coming to our clinics to keep them away from clinics more likely to be treating COVID-19 cases, it should be noted that current research suggests the spread of COVID-19 is coming from asymptomatic individuals. Just because a patient is not febrile does not mean they are not carrying (and shedding) the virus.

Congress, the White House, and state governments are considering legislation to alleviate the financial stress COVID-19 is placing on individuals and small businesses. Additionally, some local power and gas companies are stating they will not issue disconnection notices at this time.



The following websites* may be useful for staying up to date with information related to COVID-19:

[General Information on Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

[Healthcare Professionals](#)

[Businesses](#)

State & Territorial Health Department Websites

Check with your state health department for procedures for testing and other updates. [Click here](#) for links to health departments in all 50 states, 8 US territories, and the District of Columbia.

World Federation of Chiropractic (WFC)

WFC released a [fact sheet](#) with recommendations based on guidance provided by the World Health Organization.

American Public Health Association (APHA)

APHA has created a quick [fact sheet](#) for sharing with patients.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

CMS provides [guidance for healthcare workers](#), such as specifics for working in nursing homes and protective mask guidance.

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

Those who manage or help manage a clinic should also stay up to date with [guidance from OSHA](#).

Small Business Administration

Small [business guidance and loan resources](#) in light of COVID-19

Small business disaster assistance customer service center: Call 1-800-659-2955 (TTY: 1-800-877-8339) or e-mail disastercustomerservice@sba.gov

U.S. Government Response

USA.gov has the [latest information](#) about what the U.S. Government is doing in response to COVID-19.

*list provided by the American Chiropractic Association