



COVID-19: Supporting the work force

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COVID-19: Supporting the health care workforce

- Accelerating workforce entry
- Guiding principles
- Engaging other physician groups
- Upcoming legislation
- 3rd Package GME successes and 4th Package GME asks
- Resources

Accelerating Workforce Entry



- Early graduation
- Telehealth and residents
- Alternate reimbursable locations for residents
- Separate billable services at training institution

- Guiding principles to protect learners responding to COVID-19
 - <https://www.ama-assn.org/delivering-care/public-health/ama-guiding-principles-protect-learners-responding-covid-19>
- Guiding principles to protect resident & fellow physicians responding to COVID-19
 - <https://www.ama-assn.org/delivering-care/public-health/guiding-principles-protect-resident-fellow-physicians-responding>



Guiding Principles

Engaging Other Physician Groups

- **International Medical Graduates**
 - Loosen visa location restrictions and allow IMGs to travel to areas of need to practice or engage in telemedicine.
- **Retired physicians**
 - Temporarily allow physicians to come out of retirement and practice during COVID-19 and provide the necessary liability coverage.
- **Out of state physicians**
 - Allow physicians to cross state lines to practice where they are most needed.



Upcoming Legislation

- **Rural America Health Corps Act (S.2406):** The goal of this bill is to address workforce shortages in rural communities. This bill would expand the National Health Service Corps and create a 5-year loan forgiveness model to enhance physician retention in rural communities.
- **Health Heroes 2020 Act:** This bill would expand the National Health Service Corps by increasing funding to the program and establishing a Reserve Corps option to help maintain surge capacity in response to public health emergencies.



3rd Package GME successes

- Deferred student loan payments and interest until September 30, 2020.
- Use of Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants for emergency aid to struggling students.
- The continuation of Federal Work-Study payments during a qualifying emergency.
- States can use Child Care and Development Block Grant funds to provide childcare assistance to health care sector employees.

4th Package GME asks

- At least \$20,000 of federal student loan forgiveness or \$20,000 of tuition relief for residents and medical students that aid in the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Cap flexibility in CMS GME reimbursement to hospitals to accommodate variations in training due to the COVID-19 response.



COVID-19 (2019 novel coronavirus) resource center for physicians

The AMA and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are closely monitoring the outbreak of COVID-19 (2019 novel coronavirus).

AMA quick guide to telemedicine in practice

In an effort to keep our health care workers and patients safe amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the American Medical Association has designed resources to support physicians and practices in expediting the implementation of telemedicine, so care can continue to be provided to those who need it most.

INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL EDUCATION

COVID-19 FAQs: Guidance for international medical graduates

Medical Education COVID-19 resource guide

Guiding principles to protect resident & fellow physicians responding to COVID-19



Resources

- COVID-19 resource center for physicians
 - <https://www.ama-assn.org/delivering-care/public-health/covid-19-2019-novel-coronavirus-resource-center-physicians>
- COVID-19 resources for medical educators
 - <https://www.ama-assn.org/delivering-care/public-health/covid-19-resources-medical-educators>
- COVID-19 telehealth guidance
 - <https://www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/digital/ama-quick-guide-telemedicine-practice>
- COVID-19 guidance for IMGs
 - <https://www.ama-assn.org/education/international-medical-education/covid-19-faqs-guidance-international-medical-graduates>



Physicians' powerful ally in patient care