

## COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions

### APMA Recommendations

- Per the CDC's guidance, delay all elective ambulatory provider visits.
- Discontinue elective procedures (surgical and office-based).
- Consider providing [telehealth services](#) to your patients. [Watch our webinar](#) for guidance.
- Review our [small business assistance resource page](#).
- Review the Federation of Podiatric Medical Boards' [state-by-state guidance](#) for changes to licensing requirements.
- Check our [COVID-19 resource page](#) and [FAQ](#) frequently for updates and new resources, including information to share with your patients.

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### Q: Should DPMs continue treating patients?

APMA strongly recommends that, per the CDC's guidance below, you delay all elective ambulatory provider visits:

*Health-care facilities and clinicians should prioritize urgent and emergency visits and procedures now and for the coming several weeks.* The following actions can preserve staff, personal protective equipment, and patient care supplies; ensure staff and patient safety; and expand available hospital capacity during the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Delay all elective ambulatory provider visits

- Reschedule elective and non-urgent admissions
- Delay inpatient and outpatient elective surgical and procedural cases

**Q: Should I continue with elective surgeries?**

APMA recommends you discontinue elective procedures until we can flatten the curve. See the advice from the CDC above, and check out the following resources:

- [Surgeon General's Advice](#)
- [American College of Surgeons' Advice](#)
- [CMS Recommendations](#)

**Q: Limiting my practice creates a financial hardship for me and my staff. Where can I find help?**

APMA has compiled information on small business assistance. Access it at [www.apma.org/covid19sba](http://www.apma.org/covid19sba).

After a decree by the president, states now have increased flexibility in how they manage unemployment insurance benefits during the pandemic.

- Read the [Department of Labor announcement](#).
- Find [unemployment benefits in your state](#).

Lawmakers on Capitol Hill also are considering a package that would provide small business relief.

**Q: Does APMA have guidance about providing telehealth services?**

Yes; watch our [recorded webinar](#). Members may need to provide telephone services and online digital evaluation and management services during this time. CMS has [announced major changes to services](#) that podiatrists can furnish remotely under the 1135 waiver authority and Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act. This waiver allows Medicare to pay for office, hospital, and other visits furnished via telehealth. This change means podiatrists can submit CPT 99201–99215 when these services are provided remotely.

**Q: How do I protect myself from contracting coronavirus in**

### **the health-care setting?**

APMA recommends you prepare following the CDC advice:

Although you may not currently be experiencing COVID-19 exposure issues in your practice setting, now is the time to prepare for it. Start by familiarizing yourself with these infection control practices in the event you encounter someone with symptoms:

- Don N95 respirator masks
- Don full personal protective equipment (PPE), including protective eyewear
- Doff PPE responsibly as you would for exposure to any infectious disease
- After doffing equipment, decontaminate hands with an ETOH-based gel

To review protective gear steps, download and view this [CDC instructional document](#). Here is additional information about PPE from the [CDC](#).

### **Q: Why are so many continuing education events being canceled?**

The CDC's [guidance for large events and mass gatherings](#) for the next eight weeks is to cancel or postpone in-person events that consist of 50 people or more throughout the United States. As of this writing, the [APMA 2020 Annual Scientific Meeting in Boston](#), scheduled for July 23–26, is still scheduled to take place. APMA is following CDC guidance and will continue to evaluate the situation as the event draws closer.

### **Q: How will I meet continuing education requirements to maintain my license with so many cancellations?**

APMA is advocating for its members with the Federation of Podiatric Medical Boards. APMA's Center for Professional Advocacy wrote a [letter](#) to the Federation of Podiatric Medical Boards (FPMB) to encourage member boards to allow online CECH and to allow extra time for DPMs to obtain CECH.

In response, the FPMB has recommended that its member board consider waivers, extensions, and modifications of licensing requirements, e.g., allowing or increasing online CECH. The FPMB also has compiled an outstanding state-by-state guide to coronavirus updates [here](#).

**Q: Does APMA have information for patients?**

APMA is creating materials for our members to use with patients. In the coming days, we will alert members as more materials become available. We encourage members to use the outstanding resources the CDC has designed for a public audience. Here are a few examples:

- [What to do if you are sick](#)
- [How to prevent the spread of coronavirus](#)
- [Schools, workplaces, and community information](#)

**Q: Is APMA open for business?**

Rest assured, APMA is here and providing the member services you trust. Our [staff](#) is working remotely and remains available to assist you. Read a [statement from APMA Executive Director and CEO James R. Christina, DPM](#), about the current status of APMA headquarters.

## CONTACT

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9312 Old Georgetown  
Road  
Bethesda, MD 20814-  
1621  
301-581-9200   
Contact Us

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