

General COVID-19 Business Information

General Practice Related Actions to Prepare

The AMA compiled a general resource to assist private practices in navigating non-essential care during COVID-19:

<https://www.ama-assn.org/delivering-care/public-health/helping-private-practices-navigate-non-essential-care-during-covid-19>

- **COVID-19 Small Business Loan Information**

SBA has developed [Lender Match](#), a free online referral tool that connects small businesses with participating SBA-approved lenders within 48 hours.
- 7(a) program offers loan amounts up to \$5,000,000 and is an all-inclusive loan program deployed by lending partners for eligible small businesses within the U.S. States and its territories. The uses of proceeds include: working capital; expansion/renovation; new construction; purchase of land or buildings; purchase of equipment, fixtures; lease-hold improvements; refinancing debt for compelling reasons; seasonal line of credit; inventory; or starting a business. [Overview of changes due to CARES Act enacted 3.27.20.](#)
- Express loan program provides loans up to \$350,000 for no more than 7 years with an option to revolve. There is a turnaround time of 36 hours for approval or denial of a completed application. The uses of proceeds are the same as the standard 7(a) loan.
- Community Advantage loan pilot program allows mission-based lenders to assist small businesses in underserved markets with a maximum loan size of \$250,000. The uses of proceeds are the same as the standard 7(a) loan.
- 504 loan program is designed to foster economic development and job creation and/or retention. The eligible use of proceeds is limited to the acquisition or eligible refinance of fixed assets.
- Microloan program involves making loans through nonprofit lending organizations to underserved markets. Authorized use of loan proceeds includes working capital, supplies, machinery & equipment, and fixtures (does not include real estate). The maximum loan amount is \$50,000 with the average loan size of \$14,000.

Click here for more resources: <https://www.sba.gov/page/coronavirus-covid-19-small-business-guidance-loan-resources>

- **COVID-19 Tax Relief**

The U.S. Treasury Department and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) issued guidance allowing all individual and other non-corporate tax filers to defer up to \$1 million of federal income tax (including self-employment tax) payments due on April 15, 2020, until July 15, 2020, without penalties or interest. The guidance also allows corporate

taxpayers a similar deferment of up to \$10 million of federal income tax payments that would be due on April 15, 2020, until July 15, 2020, without penalties or interest. This guidance does not change the April 15 filing deadline. For more information go to: <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus>

- **US Chamber of Commerce Small Business Resources**

Many state chambers of commerce have created pages dedicated to COVID-19 impact and response, including resources for in-state businesses. The Council of State Chambers (COSC) has collected these links in a single page on the COSC website. Click here to access the collection.

<https://www.uschamber.com/co/start/strategy/small-business-resources-for-surviving-coronavirus>

- **The Department of Labor**

DOL has issued unemployment guidance that can be found [here](#), which explains flexibility states have to provide unemployment benefits when:

- An employer temporarily ceases operations due to COVID-19, preventing employees from coming to work;
- An individual is quarantined with the expectation of returning to work after the quarantine is over; and
- An individual leaves employment due to a risk of exposure or infection or to care for a family member.

To find out details on your state's unemployment insurance program, visit DOL's website [here](#).

Also, you can find a list of **state-specific FAQ's about unemployment insurance** and COVID-19 [here](#).

Insurers Response to COVID-19

Insurers are taking action in numerous ways related to treatment and testing for COVID-19. Several companies are offering zero co-pay telemedicine visits for any reason, and some are extending its Medicare Advantage virtual evaluation and monitoring visit benefit to all fully insured members. For information regarding specific insurance companies, click here:

<https://www.ahip.org/health-insurance-providers-respond-to-coronavirus-covid-19/>

For information specifically related to Blue Cross this link provides an interactive map that leads to each plan's resources: <https://www.bcbs.com/coronavirus-updates>

ASRS is working with organized medicine to seek relaxation of prior authorization for non COVID-19 related treatment to ease burdens on physician practices at this time due to limited staff.

Liability Concerns

OMIC issued an alert to policyholders regarding providing care to COVID-19 patients, including providing care during a disaster, providing emergency care for emergency non-ophthalmic conditions, questions about whether coverage is provided for providing elective or routine procedures during the COVID pandemic, and addressing other coverage issues:

<https://www.omic.com/alert-policyholders-providing-care-to-covid-19-patients/>

Your practice may be protected by its business insurance policy for COVID-19 related liabilities. Contact your broker for the policies and track losses and expenses you may need to make a claim. Further, legal counsel should be consulted on options under your policies and government emergency orders or decrees to the extent that they impact your practice operations. You may also need to notify professional liability carriers in the event you are called upon to assist with emergency care, outside of your normal clinical service arrangements.

Information Regarding COVID Themed Email Phishing:

Recently, the Health Sector Cybersecurity Coordination Center and the Department of Health and Human Services, published recommendations to Coronavirus issue is being used as context for a malicious email phishing campaign. The phishing emails contain links to malware that is frequently used to target healthcare organizations and their IT systems. Recommended actions to protect against such an attack are to implement:

- User awareness and training to help identify and avoid phishing scams
- Operationalization of Indicators of Compromise
- Automatic banners for any e-mails that originate outside the organization
- Use of blacklisting of malicious sites and whitelisting for known trusted sites
- Integrate anti-spoofing technologies Sender Policy Framework (SPF), Domain Keys Identified Mail (DKIM), and Domain-based Message Authentication, Reporting and Conformance (DMARC)
- Update operating systems and applications with the latest security updates, including 3rd party software Implement and update endpoint security systems.

More information on COVID-19 phishing can be found here:

<https://cdn2.hubspot.net/hubfs/5096139/CoronaVirusPhishingCampaign.pdf>

State Laws related to COVID-19

As the federal government leads the national response to COVID-19, several states have enacted legislation that either appropriates additional funding for coronavirus related tasks or authorizes a transfer of funds from state “rainy day” funds. Below is a chart outlining state budget legislation in response to COVID-19. <https://www.ncsl.org/research/health/state-action-on-coronavirus-covid-19.aspx>