

From: APA Membership Office membership@info.apa.org
Subject: Update on COVID-19 Response from APA's President and CEO
Date: March 17, 2020 at 7:45 AM
To: cacphd@me.com

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Dear Dr. Cotter,

As the world grapples with the evolving impact of COVID-19, we recognize that this crisis has put a great strain on psychologists across the breadth of the field. On behalf of APA's leadership, we are grateful for the critical guidance and support you are providing to your workplaces and communities.

To support you in your efforts, APA is broadly sharing psychological science and knowledge with our members, the media, and the public. APA has created numerous resources, available on our [website](#), including a new resource on the [psychological implications of social distancing](#).

We are also working to ensure that psychologists have the tools and support they need. As part of that effort, we have developed and shared new guidance on [how to protect your patients and your practice](#) and crafted an [office and technology checklist for telepsychological services](#).

At the same time, APA is strongly advocating on Capitol Hill for increasing patient access to telehealth services, including urging the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to expeditiously grant the waiver with broad interpretation so that psychologists can provide essential mental health care to Medicare beneficiaries.

We have also been working closely with the media to amplify the expertise psychologists provide to address this crisis. To date, there have been more than 530 articles featuring APA experts, including coverage in [The Wall Street Journal](#), [The New York Times](#), [The Washington Post](#), [USA Today](#), [CNN](#), and [MSNBC live](#).

APA staff have moved to 100% telework in accordance with the best practices for slowing the spread of the coronavirus. While we are not in the building, we are fully operational and ready to help you with any aspect of your membership or in dealing with the current situation.

During times when the news and advice from governments change daily, even hourly, we recognize that there will be confusion and anxiety. As psychologists, we certainly understand this phenomenon and will work hard to continue to communicate important information in a timely manner as this situation continues to unfold. To stay current, we recommend you regularly check the [CDC website](#), which is continuously updated.

We know how the virus is affecting people physically, but we don't yet know to what extent it will affect the world psychologically. This is where we believe psychologists can be leaders. Thank you all for your leadership.

Sincerely,

Sandy Shullman and Arthur Evans

Sandra L. Shullman, Ph.D.

APA President, 2020

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