

FALL HOUSE OF DELEGATES 2020



Gene M. Ransom, III
Chief Executive Officer



FIRST AND FOREMOST

First and foremost, I want to thank all the physicians who have been on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We appreciate your membership, participation and dedication to healthcare.

PRESS RELEASE



News: For Immediate Release
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MEDCHI URGES REPORTING AND SCREENING TO PREVENT CORONAVIRUS SPREAD

BALTIMORE, January 25, 2020 – The Public Health and Emergency Preparedness Committees of MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, are recommending immediate action and increased awareness to prevent, or at least slow, the spread of the coronavirus.

Richard Bruno, MD, MPH, Family & Preventive Medicine Physician, and Chair of MedChi's Public Health Committee, explained "We are seeing an **accelerated spread** of a novel coronavirus originating in Wuhan, China, and responsible for at least 42 known deaths since November 2019. As of Saturday January 25th there are two confirmed cases in the US (Seattle and Chicago), with more expected." He went on to explain "coronaviruses are a group of viruses that cause respiratory symptoms in animals and humans (about 5-10% of the common cold illness can be attributed to the coronavirus). However, the reproduction number (R0) of this new strain of the coronavirus may be higher than the 2002 SARS outbreak and the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic, and it can be spread person-to-person before symptoms emerge."

Kathleen Hough, MD, Emergency Physician, and Chair of MedChi's Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee, expressed concern stating "there is reason to believe this may be an airborne virus which can spread similarly to measles. For now, **airborne and contact precautions should be used with suspected carriers** who may have traveled from an endemic country (currently mainland China, Taiwan, and Thailand). This may also require quarantine of suspected carriers. There is no vaccine against coronavirus."

Symptoms of coronavirus are fever, cough, and shortness of breath. It seems to be affecting those with chronic illness more severely than previously healthy people, but there have been multiple deaths of treating healthcare professionals.

MedChi's Public Health Committee and Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee are recommending **screening patients for travel** from endemic countries within the prior 14 days and **implementing airborne and contact precautions**. Clinicians should immediately report patients who meet the above criteria to their local health department. This is an evolving situation and MedChi will continue to inform our members of any critical updates.

- For an up to date incidence map, see the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health GIS map here: <http://www.tiny.cc/JHUcCoV>
- For CDC updates: <http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus>
- For Maryland Department of Health updates: <https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/Pages/Novel-coronavirus.aspx>

About MedChi

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. It is the largest physician organization in Maryland. The mission of MedChi is to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients and the public health of Maryland. For more information, please visit www.medchi.org.

Richard Bruno, MD, MPH, Family & Preventive Medicine Physician, and Chair of MedChi's Public Health Committee played a key role from the beginning of the pandemic. As well as, Kathleen O'Keefe, MD, Chair of Preparedness Sub-Committee.

Kathleen O'Keefe, MD



Richard Bruno, MD, MPH



COUNTY COMPONENT CONNECTION DURING COVID-19

- In keeping with MedChi's mission as a resource for Maryland physicians, our President, Dr. Michele Manahan, MBA, developed a timely CME program entitled *"Physician Identity: Defining a New Rockwellian Portrait."* Medical portraits by Norman Rockwell, largely visible in physicians' offices for decades, provided a sense of the community physician. This was the portrait of the physician who cared for all his patients, from birth to death in the mid-twentieth century.
- This illuminating webinar gives a comprehensive look at the changing evolution of the American physician's identity. Dr. Manahan delves into various decades-long events that negatively influenced the public's perception of the medical profession, thereby detracting from the Rockwellian images that we know.
- Thankfully, all is not lost. Dr. Manahan shares her belief that physicians can once again garner the respect they so richly deserve, while moving bravely into the twenty-first century with solid solution-driven ideas. The information in the presentation encourages all physicians to take up their brushes and paint a new "Rockwellian Portrait," as they embark upon medical roles that they now define.



MEDCHI MANAGED TESTING SITE SCHEDULING



VEIP



Timonium Fairgrounds



MedChi, through a contract with the Maryland Health Department, via CRISP assisted with scheduling potential COVID patient testing at local VEIP locations, as well as Timonium Fairgrounds.

WORKING WITH THE STATE ON TESTING

- Governor Hogan expanded the availability of point of care testing.
- We worked with the State to have an ad-hoc committee that includes several MedChi members and BOT member Eric Wargotz, MD
- In mid-July, the State of Maryland began discussing ongoing testing shortages with Dr. Rajiv Shah, President of the Rockefeller Foundation on how a public/private partnership could work together to scale up productions of rapid Point of Care (POC) testing.
- Governor Hogan announced that Maryland is the first state in the compact to move forward and place an initial order for 250,000 tests and systems from BD.

The background of the slide features a close-up, slightly blurred image of a white vaccine vial and a syringe. The vial has a label with the text 'COVID-19 Vaccine' and 'injection only' visible. The syringe is positioned diagonally across the lower right portion of the frame. The overall image is in grayscale with a dark overlay where the text is placed.

VACCINE

MedChi has a representative on the state vaccine committee and we recently sent draft vaccine plan to the membership for comment.

MedChi will be working with the Maryland Health Department to help educate on the vaccine plan, and make sure physicians have access to ImmuNet and CRISP.

WEEKLY DR. HAFT CALLS

As of October there have been over 56 separate webinars in this series with over 2,900 different participants

- ❑ Early on MedChi worked with Secretary Neall and Dr. Howard Haft for facilitating regular calls, providing vital updates on COVID-19
- ❑ MedChi participated in these calls to stay up to date on COVID-19 pandemic
- ❑ These calls also provided much needed CME to our members and other Maryland Physicians while many live meeting were cancelled.
- ❑ MedChi's CME Department has worked throughout the pandemic, with the Maryland Department of Health to provide CME Credit for all of the MDH COVID-19 Maryland Update webinars, presented by Dr. Howard Haft.



KEEPING YOU INFORMED

COVID Update Email Archives

October Archives

▪ **COVID Update Email** - October 27

American Medical Association members are invited to join the AMA tomorrow, October 29 at 1:00 pm for a kickoff event for the CDC's Project Firstline national infection control training collaborative for all healthcare workers; MedChi's Fall House of Delegates Meeting on November 7 will feature a CME program focused on discussing national survey results on the physician response to COVID-19; MedChi will host Addiction Treatment in the Time of COVID-19 on November 11 at 5:00 pm; The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology released a final rule implementing provisions of the 21st Century Cures Act related to electronic health information blocking, interoperability and the ONC Health IT Certification Program; Maryland Department of Health issued a notice asking clinicians to consider tuberculosis (TB) in the differential diagnostic work up of individuals who are at high risk for either TB or SARS-CoV-2 infection, and/or who present with respiratory symptoms common to both; HHS announced an expansion of relief fund eligibility to include a broader range of practitioner and facility applicants; Maryland Secretary of Health Robert Neall requested that MedChi appoint a member to serve on MDH's SARS-COV-2 Vaccine Technical Advisory Group. We have proudly appointed our Public Health Committee Chair, Richard Bruno, MD, to serve on this advisory group, and we appreciate the opportunity to provide the state with support and expertise in this critical endeavor; Check out this week's MedChi News, our digital newsletter for MedChi members; Maryland Department of Health submitted its COVID-19 Vaccination Plan to the CDC.



Your Advocate.

Your Resource.

Your Profession.

COVID-19 UPDATE FROM MEDCHI

October 28, 2020

Dear MedChi Members and Maryland Physicians:

Early voting has started. [Please make your plan to vote sometime between now and next Tuesday.](#)

Here's what we want you to know this week:

UPCOMING VIRTUAL [EVENTS](#)

- [Register here](#) for today's Maryland Department of Health all-physician call at 5:00 pm. Last week's call focused on vaccine development and deployment updates, and this week's call is sure to provide more information of interest to physicians.
- American Medical Association members are invited to join the AMA tomorrow, [October 29 at 1:00 pm](#) for a kickoff event for the CDC's Project Firstline national infection control training collaborative for all healthcare workers.
- MedChi's [Fall House of Delegates Meeting on November 7](#) will feature a CME program focused on discussing national survey results on the physician response to COVID-19. All members are invited to attend.
- MedChi will host [Addiction Treatment in the Time of COVID-19](#) on November 11 at 5:00 pm.

THE LATEST NEWS, INFORMATION, AND RESOURCES

- The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) has [released a final rule](#) implementing provisions of the 21st Century Cures Act related to electronic health information blocking, interoperability and the ONC Health IT Certification Program.
- The [Maryland Department of Health has issued a notice](#) asking clinicians to consider tuberculosis (TB) in the differential diagnostic work up of individuals who are at high risk for either TB or SARS-CoV-2 infection, and/or who present with respiratory symptoms common to both.
- HHS has announced an expansion of relief fund eligibility to include [a broader range of practitioner and facility applicants](#).

ECONOMIC SUPPORT

The federal government established various options to help physician practices offset the financial impact of COVID-19.

Many of these programs were enacted into law after significant MEDCHI and AMA COVID-19 advocacy with the U.S. Congress and Administration as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and are now being implemented by the federal agencies.

- <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/cares>

ECONOMIC EFFECTS

COVID-19 has placed financial burdens on many Maryland Physicians.

- MedChi has and will continue to assist our physicians with economic assistance.
 - CARES Act
 - Stimulus payment one & two
 - Payroll Protection Program
 - Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) and GRANT
 - State Programs
 - County Programs
 - Telehealth Grants



MedChi Worked With Component Societies, To Help Physicians Apply For Various Programs

MedChi Successfully Helped
Hundreds Of Physicians
Implement Tele-health...





The Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) partnered with MedChi to provide education and grant assistance, for physicians to provide telemedicine to their patients.



CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield (CareFirst) and the Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi) launched a grant program to provide independent physician practices with five or fewer members, a year of complimentary access to DrFirst's Backline Telehealth platform for physicians who enroll between March 1st and December 31st of 2020.

With the help of CareFirst and MHCC, MedChi has been able to help many Maryland Physicians receive much needed grants, to provide telehealth services to their patients.

TELEHEALTH GRANTS

MEDCHI IS WORKING ON OTHER TELE-HEALTH RESOURCES

- RPM – MedChi is working with different platforms on Remote Patient Monitoring options, to provide even more economic opportunities for physicians
- E-Prescribe tool - MedChi continues to work with DrFirst and iPrescribe
 - iPrescribe is an app with drug and controlled substance prescribing, medication history, PDMP queries, allergy alerts and more;
 - Provides real-time drug prices to physicians so they can let patients know out-of-pocket costs; and

MEDCHI DEVELOPED A TELEHEALTH CODING GUIDE



Telehealth Coding Guidelines

- Throughout this national public health emergency, Medicare will pay physicians for Telehealth services at the same rate as in-person visits for all diagnoses, not just services related to COVID-19.
- Physicians licensed in one state may provide services to Medicare beneficiaries in another state. State licensure laws still apply.
- Patients may receive telehealth services in all areas of the country and in all settings, including at their home.

Terminology:

- Telehealth/telemedicine: audio & video
- Virtual check-in: audio only
- E-Visit: patient portal, secure email, HIPAA compliant text messages

Medicare and Medicare Advantage

Updated 7.23.20 – The Public Health Emergency has been extended, so Telehealth will continue to be paid by Medicare for the foreseeable future.

Telehealth – where the location of in-person encounter would normally be furnished

- Office visit CPT: 99201-99205 & CPT: 99211-99215
- Place of Service: 11
- Modifier: 95
- New & Established patients
- Append the new modifier, CS, for evaluation of COVID-19 services. Medicare will pay at 100%.
- **Allowed to bill CPT 99211 for COVID specimen collection instead of G2023.**
*Please note, some Medicare Advantage plans, may still require POS 02, please check with each payer for most recent updates

Virtual Check-ins - CMS will reimburse CPT 99441-99443 at the same rate as 99212-99214

- CPT: G2010
- CPT: G2012 or 99441 (5-10 minutes)
- CPT: 99442 (11-20 minutes)
- CPT: 99443 (21-30 minutes)
- Place of Service: 11
- Modifier: 95 (for 99441-99443, not G2010 or G2012)
- New & Established patients

Qualified non-MD HP

- CPT: 98966-98968

E-Visits

Physicians

- CPT: 99421 (5-10 minutes)
- CPT: 99422 (11-20 minutes)
- CPT: 99423 (21-30 minutes)

Click here to view more:

<https://www.medchi.org/Portals/18/Files/Resources/MedChi%20Telehealth%20Billing.Coding%20Guidelines.pdf?ver=2020-08-18-082105-820>

MEDCHI WORKS ON SCOPE OF PRACTICE



SCOPE OF PRACTICE

We are working closely with specialty societies including anesthesiology, ophthalmology, and orthopedic groups to advocate that scope of practice encroachments are not initiated in ways that are unnecessary to addressing the public health crisis and potentially adverse for patient care.

TORT REFORM

MEDCHI WORKED CLOSELY WITH GOVERNOR HOGAN TO ISSUE EXECUTIVE ORDER

MARYLAND – PUBLIC SAFETY IMMUNITY ACT (MARYLAND CODE, § 14-3A-01(B) OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE

- This statute provides a health care provider with immunity from civil liability if that health care provider acts with “good faith” and under “a catastrophic health emergency proclamation.” Maryland Governor Hogan issued such a proclamation pursuant to Maryland Code, § 14-3A-01(b) of the Public Safety Article on March 5, 2020. To fall under the immunity protection of this Act, certain conditions apply:
- If you are providing normal/routine care for a non-COVID-19 patient, then the immunity of this Act would not apply because that care has no relation to the “catastrophic health emergency proclamation” of Governor Hogan. Accordingly, if a patient had COVID-19, but was being treated for a non-COVID-19 condition, this immunity also may not apply.
- The immunity *would* apply if the health care provider was rendering care within the scope of the “Governor’s orders[,]” and those acts are to “save lives during a public health emergency.” The provider would need to strictly follow the Order of the Governor or any Department of Health (“DOH”) criteria (or other State established criteria) to obtain the immunity

SIGN ON IMMUNITY LETTER

Click here to read more!

[https://www.medchi.org/Portals/18/Files/Resources/Letter%20to%20Governor%20Hogan%20\(immunity\)%20FINAL.pdf?ver=2020-04-16-113057-267](https://www.medchi.org/Portals/18/Files/Resources/Letter%20to%20Governor%20Hogan%20(immunity)%20FINAL.pdf?ver=2020-04-16-113057-267)



April 16, 2020

The Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor of Maryland
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Legal Protections for Health Care Practitioners

Dear Governor Hogan,

We sincerely thank you for your unwavering support for our health care system and its physicians

ADVOCATING FOR A MASK ORDER

#MasksOnMaryland

Governor Hogan has issued an executive order that **Marylanders should use masks and cloth face coverings in retail spaces and public transportation** effective Saturday, April 18 at 7 a.m.

- MAKE YOUR OWN CLOTH FACE COVERING**
You can make masks easily at home from a bandana and hair ties, a t-shirt, or a scarf. **Please don't buy masks intended for health care professionals.**
- ENSURE THE RIGHT FIT**
Your cloth mask should fit snugly but comfortably against your face and cover your nose and mouth. It should not require frequent adjustments: **as always, avoid touching your face as much as possible.**
- KEEP IT CLEAN**
Don't touch the front of your mask, and don't touch your face while removing it. **Wash your hands after taking it off and be sure to launder it frequently.**
- CONTINUE TO KEEP YOUR DISTANCE**
Masks can help slow the spread of the virus, but it's still essential to **practice social distancing and stay home unless it's absolutely necessary to leave.**

Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.

FOR HEALTH RESOURCES, VISIT [CORONAVIRUS.MARYLAND.GOV](https://www.coronavirus.maryland.gov).



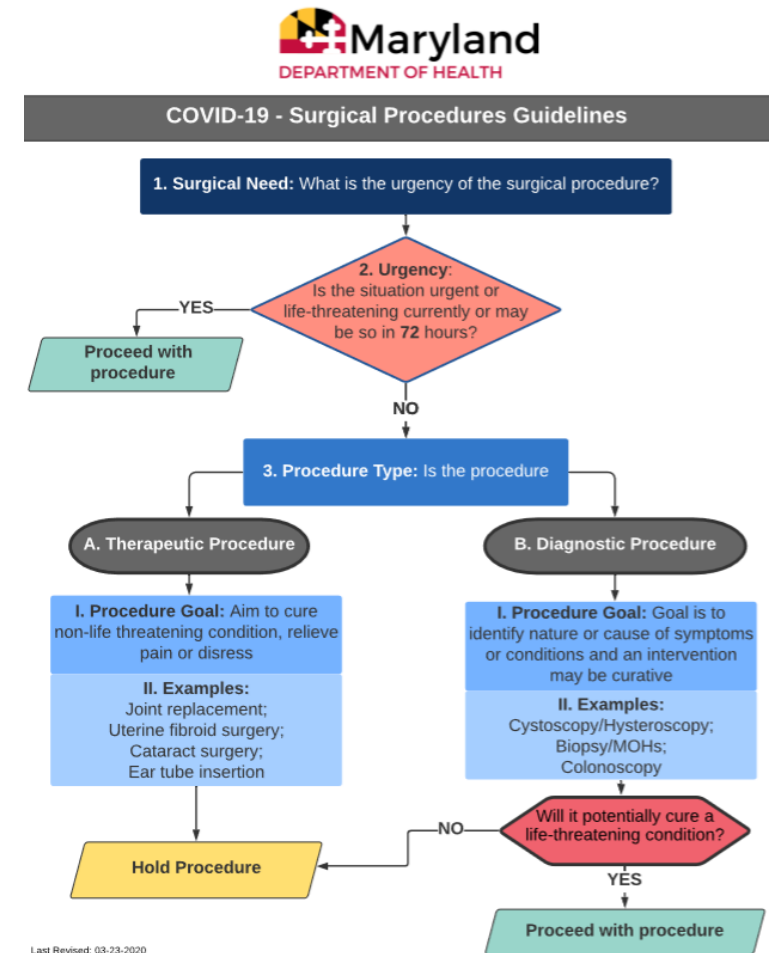
April 18, 2020 Governor Hogan Issued A Mask Order, With Strong Support From MedChi

MedChi requested that the AMA advocate for a National Mask Order.

MEDCHI HELPED ADVOCATE ON REVISING ELECTIVE PROCEDURES

MedChi helped doctors understand the ban on Elective and Non-Urgent Medical Procedures – Conditions

When the order was rescinded, MedChi developed a form certification practices who wished to reopen could file with the State.



BUSINESS INTERRUPTION



If you have any questions on this, please feel free to reach out to me and I will be more than happy to discuss.

Whether working remote, or in the office,
the MedChi staff has done an amazing job
during these unprecedented times.



Thank You!

THANK YOU



Gene M. Ransom, III
Chief Executive Officer



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I have created a longer, more in-depth report on operations, that I have posted on our website, please feel free to review.