

COVID-19

RESPONSE

How MSMS is Supporting Physicians on the Frontline

As COVID-19 began to sweep Michigan, MSMS staff and leaders sprang to action—creating resources for members, advocating with policy makers, and educating broadly. Here is brief summary of the highlights of MSMS's COVID-19 response.

In early March, MSMS swiftly developed an online resource for its members: <http://MSMS.org/COVID19>. This microsite includes MSMS original content and key updates from several sources including the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), World Health Organization (WHO), American Medical Association (AMA), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and many more. Physicians may access a variety of tools and resources such as financial relief package information, human resources information, posters and handouts, HIPAA and billing guidance, and latest best practices.

- ◆ MSMS advocated to rescind Executive Order 2020-17 so physician practices could reopen their practices and resume shuttered procedures subject to safe workplace policies and procedures.
- ◆ Teams of physicians coordinated by MSMS staff donated hundreds of hours of their time to communicate regularly with the Governor's staff, Senators, Representatives, public health officials, and others regarding COVID-19 issues of concern to physicians, patients, and the state as a whole.
- ◆ Representatives testified on behalf of MSMS on Senate Bill 899, which seeks to codify and clarify immunity protection for health care professionals acting in response to the novel coronavirus.
- ◆ MSMS launched a PPE supply site for physician practices.
- ◆ MSMS partnered with the Small Business Association of Michigan to promote the message that public health and economic recovery can and must be aligned.
- ◆ MSMS developed recommendations for safe return to clinical practices, as well as Legal Alerts, templates, and other guidance.
- ◆ MSMS began a weekly series of Tele-Town Halls for Physicians on a wide range of topics: Telemedicine, financial and economic impact, human resources, lawmakers, health disparities, and more.
- ◆ MSMS advocated to make sure physicians were included in the stimulus package to support physician practices and grants to fund telehealth licenses.
- ◆ MSMS compiled all financial and payer resources to help practice through the interim period, as well as advocated for reimbursement equity for telehealth visits by all Michigan payers.
- ◆ MSMS offers CME credit for physicians providing COVID-19 care.

For more information, visit <http://MSMS.org/COVID19>