

ASSOCIATION FOR PROFESSIONAL ACUPUNCTURE IN PENNSYLVANIA
COVID-19 STATEMENT

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On March 19, 2020, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf ordered all “non-life sustaining” businesses in Pennsylvania to close as of 8 p.m. on March 19, 2020. Per the Governor’s list of non-life-sustaining businesses, Healthcare Clinic Offices may continue physical operations, but elective procedures are prohibited to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Until further notice, the APA Penn recommends that all acupuncture practices postpone performing elective care/therapy (wellness, prevention or asymptomatic care) at the present time. Emergent care, urgent care, acute care, or active care which may adversely affect the patient’s health if postponed can be administered and should be done in accordance with current CDC guidelines. Acupuncturists, other health care practitioners, and staff are a part of the healthcare community and have a responsibility for the prevention and mitigation efforts during this pandemic while managing the urgent needs of patients during this crisis. Everyone is at risk for the transmission and contraction of COVID-19. **Our top priority must be the health of the public and your patients.**

The COVID-19 pandemic is a public health emergency. As a healthcare provider you are uniquely positioned to support a healthy Pennsylvania for all and help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Due to what many expect will be heavy burdens on other segments of the healthcare system, acupuncturists may have a special duty to continue to provide the care that patients need, and cannot receive elsewhere. Acupuncturists have the ability to prevent patients from treating themselves, self-diagnosing and seeking emergency facilities. To reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19, APA Penn urges all acupuncturists to strictly follow Governor Wolf’s direction. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in enforcement action that could include citations, fines or license suspensions. APA Penn continues to monitor the situation and will continue to disseminate information to its members as soon as possible. Below is a list of valuable links for guidance and resources.

PA Department of Health: <https://www.media.pa.gov/Pages/Health.aspx>

General Information on Coronavirus (COVID-19): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Healthcare Professionals: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/index.html>

Guidance for Preventing Exposure and Transmission

Interim Guidance for Healthcare Facilities: Preparing for Community Transmission of COVID-19 in the United States available at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/healthcare-facilities/guidance-hcf.html>

Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Healthcare Settings available at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html>

Businesses:

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/guidance-business-response.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fguidance-business-response.html

American Society of Acupuncturists:

https://www.asacu.org/wp-content/uploads/March-17-ASA-Covid-Announcement_post-review.pdf