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Advocating for over 17,000  
Chicagoland Physicians



## HONORING PHYSICIAN HEROES

On the occasion of National Doctors Day, March 30, the Chicago Medical Society wants to thank all physicians for their outstanding contributions to patient care.

Unlike years past, National Doctors Day 2020 comes amid a national public health emergency brought on by the deadly novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Our nation and our healthcare system will be tested as it never has before, at least in our lifetime.

As physicians brace for overwhelming numbers of patients, elected leaders and prominent members of the public have repeatedly called us “heroes.” Yet physicians work tirelessly and selflessly throughout the year, and now the profession will step up to make even greater sacrifices. None of us will be the same once the pandemic is over.

The Chicago Medical Society recognizes the exceptional demands being placed on you during these uncharted times. While the coming days, weeks, and months will be stressful, and frightening for many patients, medicine will rise to the challenge just as it always has.

Please keep in mind that every day is Doctors Day at the Chicago Medical Society, because we work 365 days a year to support your mission of caring for caring patients.

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## CMS CALLS FOR NEW LEGAL PROTECTIONS: PHYSICIANS FIGHTING COVID-19

The Chicago Medical Society is strongly urging Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker to shield frontline health professionals from civil liability arising out of treatment related to the deadly novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

As the state continues to build on the governor’s robust response to the COVID-19 pandemic by freeing up hospital capacity in Illinois, physicians are implementing emergency plans to handle an overwhelming surge in the number of COVID-19 patients.

Heeding the governor’s request, Chicago-area physicians have stopped non-emergent tests and procedures. Meanwhile, physicians are practicing outside of their specialties to treat an unprecedented number of patients while learning new technology like telehealth and coming out of retirement to treat sick patients.

But physicians worry these heroic efforts will be overshadowed by a potential lawsuit if an elective surgery turns into an emergency situation or physicians are held responsible for a decision to ration care due to equipment shortages. Already hospitals are quickly writing policies that put the onus on physicians to decide who will get a ventilator.

“Physicians want to work with Governor Pritzker to assist in building capacity at hospitals by ensuring that all available physicians can participate without fear of a lawsuit after doing their best for Illinois patients in this unprecedented public health threat,” Chicago Medical Society President A. Jay Chauhan, DO, FAOCO, said.

“To do this, we need protections to be put in place to limit physician exposure to potential lawsuits. In particular, we ask that the governor extend “tort immunity” to physicians under state emergency declaration.”

The Chicago Medical Society has been working closely with various state and local health departments and will continue to share information and work on constructive solutions to the health threats facing the state and nation, Dr. Chauhan said.

“As physicians, we appreciate Governor Pritzker’s bold leadership for Illinois residents and our patients and stand ready to work with him to address this unprecedented public health threat.”

Founded in 1850, the Chicago Medical Society is one of the oldest and largest medical societies in the United States. But our mission remains as vital as ever. In addition to improving public health locally, CMS’ programs educate physicians of all specialty areas while encouraging professional interaction and unity. The Society’s grassroots advocacy benefits all 17,000 physicians in Cook County.

## ENROLL IN SIREN (State of IL Rapid Electronic Notifications)

### SPECIAL SESSION: COVID-19 IN ADULT POPULATIONS

Chicago Medical Society has partnered with ECHO-Chicago to support community providers in addressing COVID-19. ECHO-Chicago has set-up a series of weekly sessions focused on the latest best practices for pediatric and adult populations. Each hour-long session includes a brief didactic led by infectious disease specialists at the University of Chicago Medicine and other experts. The 15-20 minute didactic is then followed by an extensive Q&A to help providers to deal with the real world issues of primary care providers.

Join this special CME training session for a didactic and an extensive Q&A led by University of Chicago Medicine infectious disease specialists, Drs. Daniel Johnson and Stephen Schrantz.  
Registration is REQUIRED.

[Register Here](#)



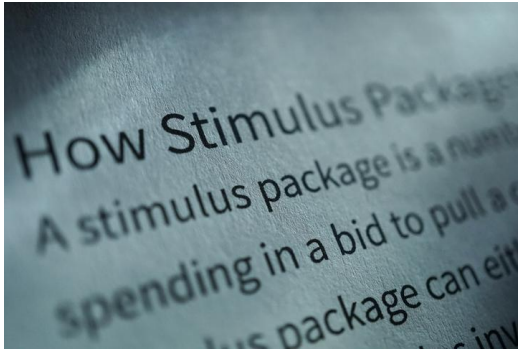
### TUNE IN TONIGHT - CMS PRESIDENT ON WTTW

Tune in to WTTW's Chicago Tonight at 7 PM to hear from Chicago Medical Society President Dr. Jay Chauhan on Covid-19 efforts.

[WTTW's Chicago Tonight](#)

### NAVIGATING THE STIMULUS PACKAGE

The Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services announced yesterday a mechanism for accelerated and advance Medicare payments to



suppliers and providers. We have linked a Fact Sheet below for our members who may want to evaluate and avail themselves of this opportunity. The FAQ has both information and step by step instructions for filling out appropriate forms.

[Stimulus Package Fact Sheet](#)



## CHICAGO MEDICINE

Stay up to date with the latest from Chicago Medical Society's magazine - Chicago Medicine.

[March Issue - Chicago Medicine](#)

## Stay Connected. Stay Informed. Connect with Us.

Given the current COVID-19 pandemic, social media is the BEST way to stay up to date with the Chicago Medical Society's news and events in real time.

Connect with the  
**Chicago Medical Society**

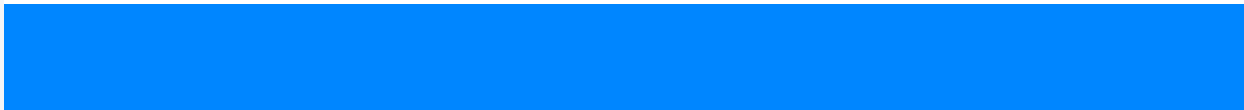





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