

Illinois Academy of Family Physicians COVID-19 Briefing

May 2020

TO OUR ADMINISTRATION & STATE AGENCY LEADERSHIP - THANK YOU!

We hope you and your loved ones remain healthy and safe. Your work on behalf of all Illinoisans in these unprecedented times is crucial and reflective of the commitment everyone brings to protecting our state while finding solutions.

As the only medical society devoted solely to primary care, the Illinois Academy of Family Physicians (IAFP) has also been working on behalf of our more than 5,200 members statewide and the patients they serve. Since family physicians provide the majority of care for our under-served rural and urban populations, they provide critical, front-line insights and perspective on population health and public health issues.

As we deal with this pandemic, IAFP offers these [COVID-19 resources](#) that are updated daily and contain physician and patient links to evidence-based sources of information.

Here are some inspiring examples of our family physicians, sharing their expertise in forums across Illinois:



Springfield: Sara Malone, MD and the SIU Centers for Family Medicine, were featured in [Randolph County Herald Tribune](#) for expanding access to COVID-19 testing for Illinoisans in Carbondale, Quincy and Springfield.

Peoria: Hayley Ralph, MD is on maternity leave and provided guidance in [Peoria Herald & Review](#) article on how to care for yourself at home if you get sick - in communication with your primary doctor.

Chicago: Kevin Most, DO, used his regular appearance on [WGN radio](#) for updates on Coronavirus and also the primary care physician workforce shortage.



Heartland Alliance, a Safe Haven, and Rush University Medical Center: Steven Rothschild, MD worked to partner with Heartland Alliance to provide a safe shelter for homeless to recover from COVID-19 at Safe Haven. Their announcement was [covered by WBEZ](#).

Home Health: Dr. Thomas Cornwell was one of several physicians spotlighted by [ABC \(national\) News](#) about how they've adapted non-COVID visits from in-person to virtual.

Lawndale Christian and Chicago: Thomas Huggett, MD appeared with Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot to share options for assisting the homeless in isolating safely, including Lawndale Christian Health Center on the West Side. Read announcement [Cicero Lawndale News](#) and news story [Chicago Crusader](#).



LeRoy: Brenda Kube, MD has joined the many who have volunteered to staff the Advocate BroMenn Medical Center "overflow tent" to care for patients, according to the [Bloomington Pantagraph](#).

Grayslake: Richard Clark, MD shared in [North Shore Magazine](#) his recent experience and appreciation for telemedicine visits to keep in touch with his patients during the COVID-19 concerns.

Maywood: Amy Blair, MD puts emotions of being a doctor and being human in facing the COVID pandemic into words in a [blog post](#) on [Reflective MedEd](#).

Rockford: Virtual visits seem to be going well Srivani Sridhar, MD according to WIFR-TV. The [video package](#) allows Dr. Sridhar to illustrate how the video visit might look for the patient.



Peoria: Rahmat Na'Allah, MD was featured in the [Peoria Journal Star](#) as COVID-19 cases increased in region. Dr. Na'Allah discussed reasons why the **African American community** is being diagnosed at high rates and dying in larger proportion than their population.

Forest Park: Like a good neighbor, Ariel Talts, DO gave good advice to [Forest Park Review Columnist John Rice](#) (her neighbor) for his column.

6th Congressional District: Board member Kate Rowland, MD joined her Congressman Sean Casten for a live Town Hall teleconference hosted by **AARP Illinois** which was covered by the [Chicago Daily Herald](#).

Olney: Jillian Scherer, MD is featured in the [Olney Daily Mail](#) on her creative solution to continue caring for her patients and her words of advice to keep their small town safe. She was also on [ABC7 Chicago](#) sharing about how her practice got creative to obtain respirators.

South Barrington: Arvind K. Goyal, MD authored a guest column in the [Chicago Daily Herald](#) to offer perspective around the issues and effectiveness of COVID-19 testing during this unnerving time for patients.



Pilsen: Evelyn Figueroa, MD was featured on [CBS National News](#) for her work with the **UI-Pilsen** Food Pantry in supporting the Latinx community hit particularly hard in Chicago. She was also on [WTTW-TV's "Chicago Tonight"](#) sharing her unique experiences with her patients.

Chicago: Carolyn Lopez, MD, President of the **Chicago Board of Health**, shared how city leaders prepared and drilled for a flu-like outbreak last year which has helped with the response to the current pandemic, in an [Chicago Sun-Times story](#).

Elgin/Kane County/Fox Valley: Dorothea Poulos, MD turned to Facebook for help with masks, and help came from an old friend, opera singer Solalnge Sior. Their story is in the [Kane County Chronicle](#).

Park Ridge: John Sage, MD, reached out to Advocate Lutheran General to go back to work and help out. He was featured in the [Chicago Daily Herald](#).

Orland Park: Susan Rife, DO calls for donations ([Oak Forest Patch](#)) for PPE, when they can't get it through traditional orders.

Our family physicians on the front-lines of the COVID-19 pandemic are not only caring for the growing population of individuals infected but also maintaining access to and continuity of care for the ongoing needs of their communities. Let's work together to preserve the nation's essential health care specialty: family medicine.

We are here for you - please reach out with your questions or concerns.

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