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| |  | | --- | | https://mcusercontent.com/c0e9616b9410387c30826d867/images/9ad4432f-6317-44c1-b08f-1517e6943cfa.jpgLetter to Louisiana Members Regarding Carona Virus Resources and Responses If you have additional resources to share, please email chapter staff with that information: [ashley.politz@laaap.org](mailto:ashley.politz@laaap.org?subject=Carona%20Virus%20Resources)  If you have issues you need the Chapter to inquire about or advocate on your behalf, please reach out to the Chapter office at (225) 379-7923.  March 13, 2020 Dear Members of the Louisiana Chapter,  We are continuing to monitor the COVID-19 outbreak in Louisiana and the US and as a Chapter are making adjustments to ensure the safety of our members, partners, staff and community at large.  We are committed to following all recommendations from the CDC and state and local public health departments and will be modifying gatherings and workflow as necessary. Currently we are operating under the following guidelines:   * All American Academy of Pediatrics events through May 10th have been canceled – including the AAP Legislative Conference * Chapter staff will continue to work remotely and will be responsive to emails and phone calls * We are monitoring the legislative session to see if any changes are made to their schedule * We are closely monitoring all scheduled events including advocacy days at the Capitol. Whether they are held will be made on a case-by-case basis based on the information and recommendations at that time.   We encourage you to make sure you are receiving the most up to date information from the CDC, Louisiana Department of Health and your local health departments.   * Sign up for alerts from the CDC Emergency Preparedness and Responses: [https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=http%3a%2f%2ficaap.memberlodge.org%2fEmailTracker%2fLinkTracker.ashx%3flinkAndRecipientCode%3dDFetNX2WbbQULQIb55iELrrUOkRbtCgMTj2q1GOODHZEhQww%252bS7dF0uxnzg4NtMilPFzM8kRpqcwTb%252fCDdGEGPLR96l%252fg6hrmD2FwMrjMmE%253d&c=E,1,ZGgF-UTzEWr7g_nXHjoiY9J_nXutwLoix2hHz1GhhHVfPBsU5opNYeCE5RTii0MpWPXMujuzlwmnSl70bmQqZs68HAiT_kvR7BHMj4bmBG4PsdsTAhqm4-oJ6lXT&typo=1) * All CDC webinars and information for clinicians: [https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/index.asp](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=http%3a%2f%2ficaap.memberlodge.org%2fEmailTracker%2fLinkTracker.ashx%3flinkAndRecipientCode%3dk7UMjZAt74OO693ecJBVQOnHtBASxBqFobBf00mlvYEdgSFchcrjyiQVikh93wk6L%252fsQdNhsdWeUpnRo74PqP2m6gTxm6BOG%252fHelLuObHhI%253d&c=E,1,SXp59peuHB47PuFd9YIkb2Mjg_UzQnw8ZAtaK-S06uRE0CLbLZSftAnL7S4IQFoHw-ApE32zWH1r7y-9MrTSsBi6UHhN8cgDCxuQYeOXA8HtLsXcplhfu5FVsw,,&typo=1) * CDC landing page: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/index.html> * Statewide information from the Louisiana Office of Community Preparedness and Health Protection can be found here: <http://ldh.la.gov/index.cfm/page/3865> * Louisiana Office of Public Health Coronavirus (COVID-19) page can be found here: <http://ldh.la.gov/Coronavirus/> * American Academy of Pediatrics also has links to all of the relevant information on the front page of their website – [AAP.org](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=http%3a%2f%2ficaap.memberlodge.org%2fEmailTracker%2fLinkTracker.ashx%3flinkAndRecipientCode%3d7LPVX3%252bROrrDihZHs7Dd%252bCHnh7gFoOpkr%252bltCMqmncGiO6S9TX38Vo9PbmnjaiLpsylEtIMxqe4fFHpZrpqysjFzldY%252bIKJvj1pTygZZ61E%253d&c=E,1,YVlZWa-NPnpn-KLy8P6q6062tq_HH9lI73AJBtBHmXmtpunvk9EqIf5P1wfa7XELAPUDmfPbg3pQWnSRp_IQcDNpnyQ6-HlGWdgMheoMOg,,&typo=1) * [Healthychildren.org](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=http%3a%2f%2ficaap.memberlodge.org%2fEmailTracker%2fLinkTracker.ashx%3flinkAndRecipientCode%3docEbwKQdaxprwzvtclCPY6nTdZsWZSkn9ykYtOaCbFEydnEfPk8VGO5LJsdj0NYUAJskbWh8WF%252bFnpH%252frn9TH%252feRpy%252bdhJI%252bKDKWnC1fnkM%253d&c=E,1,udPCHtgii9ZCF223yfdDMQY6m8C140KPo6pHtSZ7lDF5BX5w52q6I2ia_-cTLpoYZ6XnH5NoYoNxh7RHLw0V-7Kw8SQLMrv6VdhU9mxSpQ,,&typo=1) also has lots of good information for families * Updates on Medicaid and coverage for children can be found on the CMS website (link to: [https://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/Emergency/EPRO/Current-Emergencies/Current-Emergencies-page](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=http%3a%2f%2ficaap.memberlodge.org%2fEmailTracker%2fLinkTracker.ashx%3flinkAndRecipientCode%3d80k3zYTqr%252bStIGHttBYgAcfmz5DyNqBQUGVUJ2vlybeyvDei9%252fauRck7e2eP9C5hu9IMEv%252fdJM5ZXqobGDPaVcNiE2KdEdvtQ9GhwJJnNok%253d&c=E,1,-6JbS80xHBGHghKrQNzaIF56Vguv2kjUyW2m37F1HlS8b34KhbwzQawKe7A7XrodDx5CIiy-1lAC4It7pnB-UcgP_s1hr3EMsxS31I3cAF3gOneLXq0iqktwBMno&typo=1))   Additional Resources: Questions about COVID-19 now being answered by Louisiana 211 statewide network: <http://www.ldh.la.gov/index.cfm/newsroom/detail/5471>  Louisiana Emergency Website- <http://www.emergency.la.gov/?fbclid=IwAR0Hv9gkYp8hpMhFHRfhR8Pa1__khI1ubyrD4rrPtjVa5ZVKhDgZT0YRGkg> Family Preparedness Information for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) - source: Louisiana Department of Health: <http://ldh.la.gov/assets/oph/Coronavirus/resources/Family_Preparedness.pdf>  Coronavirus Updates for Louisiana Medicaid Providers 03/12/20: <http://www.ldh.la.gov/assets/medicaid/COVID-19/COVID_19_MedicaidProviderUpdate_03102020.pdf>  We are working with the Louisiana Department of Health, Medicaid and the health plans to address concerns of our members. We have been informed that insurers have been asked to reassure providers that they will account for COVID-19 in all provider incentive programs to ensure that providers do NOT feel pressure to bring patients in to meet quality metrics during COVID response. CDC has indicated they will be coming out with clinical guidance around outpatient visits. This guidance is not out yet; however, the Office of Public Health has some suggestions below until the official  guidance is released:   * Have a “well visit” room and a “sick visit” room or section (as many pediatric offices have) * Have “well visit” morning and “sick visit” afternoon * Always mask sick patients and try to minimize time in the office * Use only a single NP swab for testing – send using normal LabCorp procedures   Announcements: Gov. John Bel Edwards this week issued two proclamations related to coronavirus. His proclamation [25 JBE 2020](https://gov.louisiana.gov/assets/ExecutiveOrders/25-JBE-2020-COVID-19.pdf) issued on Wednesday declared a public health emergency in Louisiana following several presumptive positive tests results for the virus in the state . The declaration of emergency extends until April 9 unless rescinded sooner. On Friday), the Governor issued [JBE 2020-27](https://gov.louisiana.gov/assets/ExecutiveOrders/27-JBE-2020-COVID-19.pdf) which, among other provisions, places limitations on crowd sizes and closure of all state K-12 public schools between today and April 13.  Louisiana Department of Health issued [Health Alert Network Message 20-14: Update on Evaluation and Testing of Suspected COVID-19 Cases and Home Care Guidance for Patients and Physicians.](http://ldh.la.gov/assets/oph/Center-CP/HANs/Han_20-14.pdf)  On Thursday, March 12th, Louisiana Department of Health began requiring that all licensed healthcare facilities in the state restrict visitors to those deemed essential, vital or necessary to the care and well-being of patients, clients and residents. LDH said that it took the action to limit the spread of COVID-19 among the populations most vulnerable to the virus. [Read the LDH news release](http://ldh.la.gov/index.cfm/newsroom/detail/5475). This prohibition is scheduled to end on April 10, 2020, unless extended by LDH.  [An emergency rule](https://www.doa.la.gov/osr/EMR/2020/2003EMR030.pdf) to add Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) to the list of reportable diseases will be published in the March 20 Louisiana Register.  The emergency rule will have an effective date of March 6, 2020, and “shall remain in effect for a maximum of 120 days, or until the final Rule is promulgated, whichever occurs first."  Louisiana Department of Health on Monday, March 9th, issued [Health Alert Network Message 20-12: Update of the Availability of the State and Commercial COVID-19 Testing.](http://ldh.la.gov/assets/oph/Center-CP/HANs/HAN_20-12.pdf)  The Louisiana Department of Health is posting twice-daily updated case numbers online [here](http://ldh.la.gov/Coronavirus/).  If you have any concerns or issues, please reach out to the Chapter so we can advocate on your behalf. You can send an email to: [ashley.politz@laaap.org](mailto:ashley.politz@laaap.org) or call (225) 505-7611.  Thank you for all you do to care for children and families in this challenging time.   Sincerely, Ashley Politz, LMSWLA AAP Executive Director | |