

COVID-19 UPDATE, APSAA RECOMMENDS SUSPENDING IN-PERSON WORK



Mar 17, 2020 8:16 AM

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America is mobilizing to contain and ultimately defeat the Covid-19 pandemic. In addition to recommending social (physical) distancing, local governments are closing public and private facilities, restricting the size of gatherings and, in some places, including the San Francisco Bay Area, even requiring residents to 'shelter-in-place' for three weeks in order to radically mitigate the spread of the virus. The consensus of medical advice is that this is the best strategy to avoid the tragedies unfolding elsewhere and save lives.

In support of these efforts, APsaA is strongly recommending that its members and other mental health professionals suspend meeting in-person and instead conduct all clinical and educational activities by phone or video. We recognize that this is a lot to ask for those of us less familiar or comfortable with technology, and even for those who are used to working on-line, a sudden transition can be wrenching for both patient and analyst, and particularly traumatic for some patients. To assist our members in working remotely we will be providing reliable information and resources as described below. In the event you do meet with a patient in person, please exercise every precaution.

APsaA is forming a Covid-19 Advisory Team chaired by Todd Essig and David Scharff to coordinate our response to the pandemic. The team will be compiling a menu of resources for working remotely including best practices for conducting distance treatment, information on virtual communications platforms, expert advice on HIPAA, insurance billing, etc. These resources will be posted to you and placed on APsaA's website soon.

In the meantime, members are encouraged to make use of the APsaA members list (MEM), where a wealth of information and support is actively being exchanged. Please go to connect.apsa.org/home to sign up for the members list if you are not currently subscribed.

We strongly feel this is the responsible course of action and ask our members to act to protect ourselves and our patients, and to send a message of solidarity to the broader community.

Bill Glover, President
Kerry Sulkowicz, President-elect