

Greetings,

On behalf of the Illinois Osteopathic Medical Society (IOMS) and its leadership, thank you for your selfless work on the frontlines fighting the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). We know these are alarming and perhaps dire times for many people, including physicians.

The IOMS appreciates your diligent care for your patients during this national emergency, and we recognize the sacrifices you and your families have made. We also understand the personal stress you may feel and the difficult decisions you may have to make in providing care for your patients while being held to very high standards. Often our heroic efforts go unnoticed during distressing or chaotic times such as these, and we are here to recognize your efforts and provide the support you need.

The IOMS “has your back” and is here to assist you in every way we can. Along with the AOA, we are closely monitoring developments from around the state and the nation, and partnering with our public health agencies. We also are communicating the needs of physicians to public health authorities so those at the frontlines have adequate resources to confront this crisis.

We know that many of you are caring for patients despite a shortage of safety equipment and other essential supplies, while potentially contending with a lack of sick leave or other financial concerns. It is important to us that we hear directly from our members to help serve you best, and even more important that your members of Congress hear directly from you. Through your feedback, we know that COVID-19 is causing stress, shortages in personal protective equipment (PPE), and overloading our public health system. In conjunction with the Osteopathic Advocacy Network, we have activated grassroots initiatives to increase public pressure on lawmakers. Please Tweet or Email your lawmakers to help apply pressure to Congress through social media and to help put a face on the need.

In addition and of equal importance, on Monday, March 23, the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation prepared Variances allowing physicians whose licenses are expired or inactive for less than three years to restore temporarily their license, for no fee or continuing education requirement, to work under the direction of Illinois Emergency Management Agency and the Illinois Department of Public Health or in a long-term care facility, hospital, or federally qualified health center. Out-of-state licensed physicians may also practice in Illinois in a limited capacity. Temporary practice approval expires on September 30, 2020.

Applications are available online at IDFPR's website:

- Physician License Reinstatement: <https://www.idfpr.com/Renewals/Apply/Forms/F2397.pdf>
- Out of State Temporary Practice Permit: <https://www.idfpr.com/Renewals/Apply/Forms/F2398.pdf>

Please let us know how we can support you as we work together to combat COVID-19 in our community.

Sincerely,  
Ralph Naftaly, D.O.  
President, Illinois Osteopathic Medical Society