



HEART BEAT

The monthly newsletter from The OSCA

SPECIAL EDITION

COVID-19 UPDATE

On March 22, 2020, Dr. Amy Acton, Director of the Ohio Department of Health, issued a “Stay at Home Order” that reinforced and enhanced the measures she and Governor Mike DeWine previously issued to help deter the spread of COVID-19. This Order will become effective on 11:59 p.m. on Monday, March 23, 2020 and directs Ohio citizens to stay at home except for attendance at essential activities, essential governmental functions, or to participate in essential businesses and operations.

Sections 5 and 7 allow Ohioans to leave their houses to work for or obtain healthcare and public health services, which would include chiropractic services. The OSCA has been receiving many questions. We cannot determine whether your office should remain open while this order is in place. Instead, that decision will be a personal one. The factors you consider may be different than a colleague in another part of the state. While making those decisions, the health and safety of yourself, your staff, and the patients you serve must be your number one priority.

The intent of the Order is to reduce the number of people that are out to slow the spread of COVID-19. The administration has previously released guidance that recommends that all elective procedures be postponed and this guidance should still be followed.

If your office does stay open for essential appointments, you must follow the social distancing measures listed in the Order including:

- Designate with signage, tape, or by other means six foot spacing for employees and customers in line to maintain appropriate distance;
- Have hand sanitizer and sanitizing products readily available for employees and customers;
- Implement separate operating hours for elderly and vulnerable customers; and
- Post online whether a facility is open and how best to reach the facility and continue services by phone or remotely.

Also included in the order is an [Employer/Business checklist that must be implemented](#). [Click here to view that checklist](#).

Other social distancing measures already recommended include washing hands with soap and water for at least twenty seconds as frequently as possible or using hand sanitizer, covering coughs or sneezes (into the sleeve or elbow, not hands), regularly cleaning high-touch surfaces, and not shaking hands.

Further, the Chiropractic Board has issued guidance on managing a practice during this COVID-19 outbreak. **Click here to view.**

The Order is effective through April 6, 2020. However, this situation is changing daily and new orders will likely be drafted that supersede these recommendations. **If you would like to read the order, click here.**

As many of you have entered your office for the first day of an uncertain week, we want you to know that the OSCA is here to support you and is working tirelessly behind the scenes on your behalf. We will continue to provide updates and resources that will be helpful to you and your business during this crisis.

A note on the OSCA...

We understand that you - our members - likely need guidance now more than ever; we exist to serve you and deliver whatever we can to help you operate most effectively. We will continue to share additional guidance regarding this order and other important information as it becomes available. We are working to provide you with new information and resources to help your business during this uncertain time. One thing we do know for certain is that we are still here and we are still fighting for Chiropractic everyday!



To comply with the new orders from Governor DeWine, the OSCA staff will be working remotely until April 6th.

If you have a question, you can still call us at 614-229-5290 but for the most rapid response, we ask that you email us at osca@oscachiro.org.

Best Practices for Chiropractic Offices **During the COVID-19 Crisis**

This was sent out on Friday, but we wanted to re-iterate is best practices if you choose to continue to operate.

One thing we've been reminded of this week, is that change is inevitable. How we adapt to the changes, can impact our outcomes.

Daily, the available statistics about COVID-19 in Ohio have changed, as have

the business restrictions and closures.

During Friday's press conference, best business practices for businesses that remain open were reviewed. The governor's office is demanding execution of these best practices. **Chiropractic offices that remain open should lead in this crisis by enacting all of the below:**

- Employee's take temperatures before arriving to work, or upon arrival to work.
- Dedicate a staff member who is responsible for cleaning and sanitizing all door handles, rails, surfaces. In chiropractic offices, this should also include all clinical equipment and relevant surfaces in your office.
- Remove chairs in your reception area to create more spacing between people.
- Stagger employee lunches if they eat in a common area.
- Utilize the 6 feet rule. You may be able to do this by reducing the number of appointments you take in a given time frame, space out seating in waiting area, etc.
- Stay home after work.
- Anyone exhibiting symptoms should immediately be sent home.
- Designate someone to enforce the rules.
- Make sanitizing supplies available.
- No gatherings or meetings without the appropriate spacing.
- No sharing equipment without disinfecting in between.

The Governor's office is imploring businesses that remain open must lead by implementing the above action items.

In addition to the above best practice guidelines, know that the nature of a chiropractic office will create other opportunities to prevent spread:

- Any patient exhibiting signs of fever, shortness of breath, cough and fatigue/malaise should cancel their appointment and contact their primary care office.
- If a patient arrives at your office with these symptoms, they should be sent home and advised to call their primary care office.
- Make sure patients clean their hands as soon as they enter your office.

Some additional suggestions to consider and implement when possible:

- Where supplies are available, take the temperature of each patient, recording it in the patient file. Any patient with a fever should be sent home and advised to call their primary care.
- Require non-patients, where appropriate, to wait in the car.
- Allow patients to wait in their car until the doctor is ready. Call them to come in and straight to the treatment room, reducing waiting time in the office.
- Reduce the number of appointments scheduled to reduce the number of people in your office at one time.

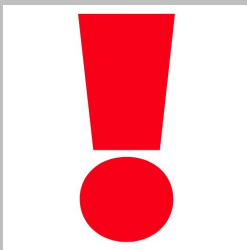
Chiropractors continue to serve an important role while they care for their patients. We also share the responsibility of preventing the spread of this virus and must implement all procedures as outlined.

If you missed an update this week, click the banner below to see all the resources available on our website!



COVID-19 UPDATES & RESOURCES

Ohio Chiropractic Licensing Board Reminders



The Ohio Chiropractic Licensing Board has sent a few reminders that we want to reiterate for our members.

First, was in regards to marketing rules. Per the board, *"Furthermore, at this time there is insufficient clinical or scientific evidence to make any claims regarding chiropractic treatment or cure of COVID-19. It is a violation of Board rules to disseminate or cause to be disseminated, any advertisement or solicitation that is in any way false, fraudulent, deceptive or misleading in regard to COVID-19."*

Second, the board reiterated that license renewal will stay March 31st, 2020. Please do not delay your license renewal. More information on renewal can be found [here](#).

In case you missed it,

An Update from the ACA:

Call Your Senators Now to Ensure Relief for Providers, Including Chiropractors

Background: Senators Michael Bennet (D-Colo.) and John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) have introduced the Immediate Relief for Rural Facilities and Providers Act, new legislation to address the impending crisis facing our health care system as the spread of COVID-19 increasingly strains hospitals and providers across the country. Bennet and Barrasso's new legislation would extend a lifeline to rural hospitals, and all providers and the millions of Americans who depend on them for health care.

Among help for rural hospitals, the Bennet/Barrasso legislation will:

- **Provide Stabilization and Relief for *all* Providers, including chiropractors** with an emergency, one-time grant for all providers and ambulatory surgery centers equal to their total payroll from January 1 - April 1, 2019.
- **Provide Funding for *all* Physicians and Providers, including chiropractors** by authorizing the Small Business Administration to provide low interest loans to providers and ambulatory surgery centers at a 0.25% interest rate that will not accrue until two years after the COVID-19 pandemic has ended.

What you need to do: Call the senate switchboard at **202-224-3121** or find your state senators' office [here](#) and ask them **"to include the Immediate Relief for Rural Facilities and Providers Act, sponsored by senators Bennet and Barrasso, in the current Senate COVID-19 relief package."**