

SPECIAL EDITION

COVID-19 UPDATE - 5/13/2020

In continuing our efforts to answer your questions and help you support your business during the COVID-19 Pandemic, the OSCA will be updating you with a special edition HeartBeat Newsletter. Please keep in mind that many of these programs are continually being updated. Please refer to the latest email or our <u>COVID-19 Member Page</u> for the latest.

Licensed Massage Therapy Locations Permitted to ReOpen on May 15th

During yesterday's press conference, Governor DeWine announced that all massage therapy locations may reopen on May 15th in Ohio. With most businesses, there are additional restrictions and orders that ensure a safe environment for the LMT and their clients. This document also included the following that is especially pertinent to chiropractic offices:

• Massage Therapy in a Chiropractic Office, Medical Office: If appointments are in 15-20 minute sessions, the therapist is risking much more exposure by working with 10-20 clients or patients per day rather than the four to six seen by a therapist offering 60 minute sessions. Since other health professionals do not use lubricant, the LMT must be careful to either sanitize the lubricant container or use disposable lubricant packages. Establish a maximum capacity.

<u>The full reopen plan with recommendations and mandates for massage therapy locations</u> <u>can be found here.</u> If you have any additional questions regarding reopening plans for LMTs, please contact the State Medical Board.

Don't forget to participate in ChiroCares 2020! Set a food drive (virtual or in your office) and participate in this nationwide food drive with fellow DCs. Share your stories and donations using #ChiroCares2020! Click the banner below to learn more!

#CHIROCARES2020

CHIROCARES May 19th, 2020

Cares Act Provider Relief Funds

The OSCA has received many questions over the last month in regards to issues surrounding the CARES Act Provider Relief Funds. The second round of funding is still ongoing (more information can be found here), but if you have not yet decided what to do with your initial funds, HHS has extended the return deadline to 45 days.

Providers will now have 45 days, increased from 30 days, from the date they receive a payment to attest and accept the Terms and Conditions or return the funds. As an example, the initial 30-day deadline for providers who received payment on April 10, 2020, is extended to May 24 from May 9, 2020. With the extension, not returning the payment within 45 days of receipt of payment will be viewed as acceptance of the Terms and Conditions. As a reminder, if you reject this first round of funding, you are not eligible at this time to receive the second round.

To accept or reject the terms and conditions or learn more about the program, please click here.

Government Corner

House Bill 151:

HB 151, which would create the Chiropractic Loan Repayment Program for DCs that provide care to "health resource shortage areas" and makes corrections to animal chiropractic rules, has been assigned a committee in the Senate. The bill will now be heard in the Senate Health Committee. Currently, bills not addressing the current pandemic are on an indefinite hold, but the OSCA hopes that this movement will ensure that the bill will have a hearing before the end of the general assembly. We will continue to update members on any future developments.



House Bill 606 and Senate Bill 308:

In response to the current pandemic, the Ohio House and Ohio Senate have introduced bills to protect healthcare providers from potential lawsuits as a result of this illness. The bills would provide some civil immunity for certain healthcare providers during declared disasters, including during this pandemic. While excluding cases of gross negligence, the bill would assure that businesses on the front line of this crisis are provided protections from the frivolous lawsuits that many will undoubtedly face under the status quo.

Both bills have had their first hearings and **have been amended to include Doctors of Chiropractic by name**. The OSCA is monitoring the movement of these bills, and will keep members updated as they progress.

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