



March 13, 2020

AACVPR Statement on COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

On behalf of the AACVPR Board of Directors and staff, we extend our deepest concern, astute public health surveillance, and ongoing association support for our members, colleagues and partners who are impacted by the outbreak of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic. Monitoring and improving the quality of life for our patients, their families and Cardiac Rehabilitation (CR) and Pulmonary Rehabilitation (PR) professionals is at the core of our mission at AACVPR. That's one reason why it is personally impossible not to be acutely affected by the news surrounding the situation.

AACVPR diligently continues to monitor the developments of COVID-19 as we are committed to providing you with the tools, resources, and the most up-to-date information to care for your patients, their families, your community, and you, as the clinician. Please find some valuable, fact-based resources linked at the bottom of this message that highlight public health preventive measures and the risk to cardiopulmonary patients that may come in contact with the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a situation such as this one, the infectious disease and crisis control centers of your hospital should be your primary source of public health information and mandates. Please adhere to their guidance and mandated protocols for consulting patients and adjusting cardiopulmonary rehabilitation programming to ensure that both your patients and staff maintain optimal health to contain the dissemination of this virus. If you are in an area where patients are prevented from coming to your hospital or have elected not to, consider effective home exercise recommendations. And increasing your cleaning and sanitization practices in your facility is strongly recommended.

This is a rapidly evolving public health situation. Stay focused, alert and informed in order to be an educated resource for your patients who may be anxious how this affects their CR/PR rehabilitation programs and consider what adaptations, as a clinician, you may need to implement to provide healthcare services. Finally, protect yourself. You are very much valued, as your contributions positively impact the lives of so many patients.

Resources

- [What Heart Patients Should Know About Coronavirus \(American Heart Association\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Preparation Recommendations from the COPD Foundation](#)
- [World Health Organization's explanatory video and resources webpage](#)
- [Information for Healthcare Professionals from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention general information about COVID-19](#)

Sincerely,

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