



Blast Communication:

COVID-19 Update #7

April 8, 2020

Dear Georgia AAP Colleagues:

Here are this week's important updates and news for you.

1. Availability of Small Business Loans & the Payroll Protection Program:

Reminder that applications for the PPP loan and disaster loan program are now being accepted. Please visit [this link](#) for more information.

2. Grace Periods on Vaccine Invoices: Several of the major vaccine manufacturers are offering payment extensions on invoices to practices: These are our current understandings:

-- Merck and Pfizer have automatically extended all invoices 30 days (past the original parameters).

-- Sanofi and GSK will work with practices individually.

-- For GSK, practices wanting to defer payments should call and ask to speak with the finance department to request an extension. GSK Finance will assist individual customers based on their specific payment needs and requests.

GSK Finance contact information:

Number: (866) 475-8222, Option 6 (8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. EST) or

Email: covid19@gsk.com

Information needed: Bill To # and Invoice # and estimated date of payment

3. New Chapter Committee on Telehealth Established: This committee, chaired by Jonathan Goodin, MD, Carrolton will assist with providing information to members as they ramp-up telehealth capacity in their offices. If you have a telehealth question, send to Fozia Khan Eskew, at the Georgia AAP, at [fes skew@gaaap.org](mailto:feskew@gaaap.org).

4. Physician's Coalition request Georgia Medicaid to Adopt "Medicare like" advance payments:

The Georgia AAP signed on to a letter, with 26 other state medical associations on Monday, asking Georgia Medicaid to consider an advanced payments for Medicaid physicians using the model that the federal CMS developed for Medicare providers in the last (CARES) federal stimulus package. We are hopeful of quick action by the state on this request. Please [click here](#) to view the full letter.

5. AAP Recommends Parents Continue Well-Child Visits for Young Children During COVID pandemic:

AAP statement on vaccines age 2 and under. Please notify the chapter if a situation arises where your office can not give vaccines for this age group.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the AAP recently recommended the continuation of well-child visits including scheduled immunizations especially for infants and toddlers (newborn to age two). [Click here](#) to see the latest information.

Practices may want to reach out to their patients/parents to reinforce this message and provide information about modifications the practice has made to increase patient/parent/staff safety in office. More information on this topic was provided in Update #6. Please notify Chapter if a situation arises where your office can not give vaccines for this age group.

6. Can PPE be safely re-used? The Chapter has received questions on this topic. CDC has provided guidance on contingency plans for gowns: please [click here](#).

7. GHSA Declines to Waive PPEs for Spring: The Chapter recently asked the Georgia High School Association to waive PPE's for the spring and allow a student's 2019-20 PPE to serve for the '20-21 school year. Citing liability concerns on their part, this was declined.

8. Georgia Dept. of Behavioral Health stands up COVID-19 Emotional Support Line: Please [click here](#) to see information on the COVID-19 emotional support line.

Thank you for all you're doing in this challenging time—for your patients, your families, your staff and colleagues....and yourself, we hope! Contact us with your questions via Noreen Dahill at the Chapter office: ndahill@gaaap.org.

Terri McFadden, MD
President

This message is also posted on the Georgia AAP listserv for our pediatrics nurses and practice managers.