



# AMERICAN ACADEMY OF NURSING

*transforming health policy and practice through nursing knowledge*

Dear Fellows,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Academy staff, we want to express our sincerest compassion and support to all of you who are facing difficult decisions on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Academy earnestly thanks you for all of your efforts to provide care to patients in need, offer support to families, educate the public, and provide leadership to address fears and misconceptions within your communities. The health of the public is at the center of this crisis and it is the heroic work of nurses and healthcare workers around the globe that will see us through this storm.

As the spread continues to have a devastating effect, we must hold firmly to a unified approach. Countless national, state, and global organizations are battling COVID-19 and each individual has a part to play. To that end, the Academy has been coordinating and collaborating with many groups to bolster the collective impact. The Academy's primary focus in this pandemic include:

- Supporting the nurses and healthcare providers who are on the front lines;
- Protecting the most vulnerable populations; and
- Increasing access, scale, speed, and accuracy of testing.

On Friday, the Academy joined with a number of other healthcare/provider organizations specific to the demand for personal protective equipment (PPE) and N95 masks. Over the weekend, we sent a letter to the President's office as a follow-up to our meeting on Wednesday, March 18th. In addition to the requests above, the Academy supported the American Nurses Association (ANA), American Hospital Association, and American Medical Association as they called on the President to use the Defense Production Act's authority measures immediately. Yesterday, the Academy sent a letter requesting Congress work quickly and pass vital legislation with increased resources needed for nurses, healthcare providers, hospitals, as well as the public health and research infrastructures to combat COVID-19. We have also been promoting the Academy's messaging through interviews conducted by various national news organizations on March 17th, March 19th, March 22nd, and March 23rd.

The Academy is continuing to field media requests and will work to ensure the nursing voice is clear and consistent in our efforts to protect the public. We appreciate your feedback and feel the passion you have to help fight this pandemic. We are working diligently to respond to all requests and are grateful that many Fellows are also lending their support and expertise through opportunities available via specialty organizations, local health departments, state agencies, and national organizations such as the American Red Cross, as well as, donating available PPE to area hospitals and facilities.

We have developed a [COVID-19 Resource Page](#) that will be updated frequently with the latest actions of the Academy, information from our colleagues at other national nursing organizations, selected resources shared by our experts, and updates of the actions taken by the federal government. We will also be starting a weekly digest of curated resources, tools, and articles related to the pandemic. The Academy's policy and communications staff are working around the clock to ensure we are responding to important actions by the federal government as they occur and that our COVID-19 page remains updated with the most current information. We will do our best to share items of interest to our

Fellows. [ANA's resources](#) have been critical in this time, including this [webinar](#) for all nurses scheduled for Monday, March 30th. Just as critically, the Academy's operations team, which supports our members, programs, and conferences is preparing for every possible scenario and keeping the momentum of the organization going forward.

Throughout all of this, please know the Academy takes the wellness of all our Fellows seriously. We hope that each of you is taking care of yourselves during this incredibly stressful time. Please know you remain in our thoughts and that we are here to support you. We must meet this uncertainty and be leaders the public needs now. The Academy thanks each of you for all that you do.

Sincerely,



Eileen Sullivan-Marx, PhD, RN, FAAN  
President



Suzanne Miyamoto, PhD, RN, FAAN  
Chief Executive Officer