



Questions for Acupuncture Town Hall

March 24, 2020, 3:30pm PDT

<https://www.crowdcast.io/e/covid-19-virtual-town>

[Summary of Town Hall](#)

[Pre-Town Hall Poll Results](#)

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Acupuncture Questions

Question: Alaska Acus shut down yesterday by Gov. but allow PT and Chiro to continue. How should we proceed with the Essential vs. Non-essential medicine gray area? We have more to offer as a treatment and see less px a day. How do we keep from being discriminated against in unfair mandates?

Answered on March 26, 2020: The American Society of Acupuncturists advises all acupuncturists to obey national, state, and local laws. In Alaska, the governor’s mandate prohibits acupuncture services. Please consult the Alaska Acupuncture Association Acu4AK@gmail.com for more information.

<https://gov.alaska.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/03232020-SOA-COVID-19-Health-Mandate-009.pdf>

Question: In Florida APs are considered “primary healthcare providers” so why does FSOMA then think we have to close our offices and only do telemedicine???

Answered on March 27, 2020. Message from FSOMA:



The Governor did not close anyone but stated that ALL Healthcare Providers must do only emergency, urgent or medically necessary treatments and that they follow CDC Guidelines for infection control. This includes MDs, DCs,.... all healthcare professions. These are unprecedented times with a huge risk of contagion and infection. The virus can be spread by people who have no idea they have it and is highly dangerous for the elderly and immune compromised.

<https://www.fsoma.org/assets/docs/Straight%20Talk-%20%20Understanding%20Florida%20Executive%20Order%2020-72.pdf>

Question: What can state acupuncture associations do to help their members?

Answered on March 26, 2020. State Acupuncture Associations can support their members by providing resources and webinars in the COVID-19 crisis.

Including but not limited to topics such as:

1. How do I provide appropriate telehealth/telemedicine to my patients?
2. Resource links to the ASA and to the CDC on your website to provide value to your members.
3. Making sure your state organization is a member of the ASA, the Acupuncture trade organization in the United States.

Question: I am getting conflicting information regarding the issue of classification of acupuncture as an "essential" or "non-essential" business. One message says that it is while the other says it is not. Please clarify.

Answered on March 26, 2020. The list of "essential" services differ based on your location, we advise acupuncturists to follow national, state and local laws. ASA recommends that acupuncturists limit their in-person sessions to emergent cases, and only if the acupuncturist has proper Personal Protection Equipment (eye protection, isolation gowns, gloves and facemasks/N95 respirators). As there is a national PPE shortage, we recommend telemedicine to help our patients, as well as those frontline individuals.

Answer on April 1, 2020. Please review our [ASA Essentials Letter](#)

Question: Speaking of Stepping up, Who are the most "powerful" people in our nationwide profession who can offer our herbal Care to those who need it.

Answered on 3/27/20. The American Herbal Products Association is the trade organization for the Herbal Industry. Members of AHPA include organizations and herbal companies. [For more information, here is their March 26, 2020 COVID-19 webinar.](#) AHPA has a committee for Chinese Herbal Products.

Answer on 4/2/20: AHPA will be presenting at the ASA NCCAOM Town Hall on April 7, 2020. We hope you will be able to join this webinar.

Question: What are affordable, HIPAA compliant methods of telemedicine? I see Zoom is \$200/month. Are there any better alternatives you can suggest?

Answered on March 24, 2020. Doxy.me is free and HIPAA compliant.

- https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/special-topics/emergency-preparedness/notification-enforcement-discretion-telehealth/index.html?fbclid=IwAR36IBqo7VXtd67MQ_m9ti7KTBNSVDVqYQUkEkdIbks9jGgpOswQt2M7Zk
- Services such as Unified Practice and Jane also options for acupuncturists



Question: Any info coming out of China on point protocols for coronavirus patients or is it just herbs?
Answered on March 24, 2020. Please [see this Journal of Chinese Medicine article](#), and conduct Pubmed searches for the latest information.

Question: I have a community-based certificate with AWB, my location is close to SCUHS in la Habra, ca. Can't we treat just 1st responders in that area with NADA protocol?

Answer: March 26, 2020

Ravyn Stanfield, Acupuncturists Without Borders's response: We have been telling our trainees that we are not organizing clinics at this time because the virus is so communicable. Even if clinicians only treated people who tested negative for COVID19, had folks sit 6 feet apart, and had all the PPE's necessary, there is no guarantee they don't have the virus themselves, and/or could get the virus. These next few weeks have been established as vital to flatten the curve of the outbreak and limit contact with people as much as possible.

Our discussions on this have been that people will be feeling traumatized by this for a long time to come. We believe there will be ample opportunities to treat people once the spread of the virus has been controlled, and no new cases are being reported. At this time, there is no way that the safety of clinicians could be guaranteed, and the risk of contracting the virus is extremely high.

Herbal Questions

Question: Our Vendors in California are running low on TCM herbs. Any ideas on the shipments and supplies? Will these resources be available for us to stay in business and help treat people? How can we make sure that we have these resources?

Answered on March 26, 2020. ASA is in contact with our herbal vendors. While suppliers are limiting the size of certain herb orders, the herbal stock is good. Our herbal vendors are working hard to ensure the availability of herbs for our patients.

Telemedicine Questions

Question: The Oregon Medical Board does not include telemedicine in the scope of practice for licensed acupuncturists. I'd like to know how Oregon LACs can advocate for immediate change, and if the NCCAOM can offer support urgently. Thank you!

Answered on March 24, 2020: Oregon Assoc of AOM replied "One of our members called the OMB yesterday about this and got an encouraging response. Collin Stoll spoke with Shayne Nylund at their office: "he said we can practice telemedicine as long as we are licensed in the state and it is an existing patient. They are working on putting it on the website. However, they are short-staffed and dealing with the crisis." We don't know if this is a permanent change.

Question: Are there referral lists somewhere of folks by state that are or will be offering telemedicine? I have former patients in Seattle and Los Angeles that need treatment and I am now in DC.

Answered on March 26, 2020. Please consult state acupuncture associations for referral resources. For Seattle practitioners, please contact WAEMA <info@weama.info>. For practitioners in Los Angeles, please contact CSOMA <info@csomaonline.org>.



Question: Where do we donate unopened N95's?

- **Answered on March 26, 2020.** Please consider donating the unopened N95 to your local hospital or consult your state acupuncture association. To find a state acupuncture association near you, please visit the ASA's website. <https://www.asacu.org/about-asa/state-organizations/>