



What have we done for you during the COVID-19 pandemic?

 LIABILITY PROTECTION Helped enact executive orders to protect you from COVID-19 lawsuits	 PPE SOURCE Provided the opportunity to purchase PPE when supplies were scarce	 ADVOCATE FOR TELEHEALTH Worked to institute expanded telehealth policies	 COVID-19 UPDATES Communicated urgent information via daily email updates to all physicians
 ADVOCACY Influential voice and representation on the State and Federal level	 EDUCATION Earn accredited CME hours on the topics that matter most to you	 INSURANCE Save thousands on out-of-pocket expenses with our health insurance plans	 APHP Confidential support to physicians dealing with substance abuse and mental illness

1. Liability Protection

The Medical Association has helped to enact executive orders to protect you from COVID-19 lawsuits and encouraged Alabama's legislators to make conscious decisions regarding the safety of both Alabama's physicians and patients.

2. Communicating Covid-19

MASA's staff has been diligent in informing our physician members with timely, up-to-date information about practicing medicine among the impacts of Covid-19. We have shared resources tailored to your specific setting including:

- Information relevant to managing your practices
- Information relevant to specialty physicians
- Information relevant to clinical care

3. PPE Provisions Among Scarce Supply

Since March 2020, MASA has coordinated the orders of over 40,360 units of PPE to 200 physician offices. Over 800 miles were traveled throughout Alabama, hand-delivering necessary protective equipment to physicians just like you.

4. Grants for physicians

In response to our advocacy and recommendations, Governor Kay Ivey has allocated \$35 million from Alabama's federal coronavirus relief money to set up the grant program to help physicians, dentists, clinics, ambulance services, and other health care and emergency response providers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. On a first-come-first-serve basis, the state of Alabama will offer cash grants in an amount up to \$15,000 (per practice) for Alabama health care and emergency response providers that meet eligibility requirements.

5. Advocate for Telehealth Policies

The Medical Association of the State of Alabama continues to strive for greater telehealth coverage. We have worked with insurance companies to increase their policies and coverages of necessary telehealth services. We will continue to fight for Alabama's citizens as so many need telehealth services. [See our letter to Blue Cross here.](#)

Join or Renew today!

Physicians Insurance Plan of Alabama Open Enrollement



The Physicians Insurance Plan of Alabama through Blue Cross Blue Shield is available for members of the Medical Association. PIPA provides you, your family, and your staff with strong benefits at affordable premiums as compared to other options. We worked with Blue Cross to keep the rate

increase to a minimum. While many groups are experiencing a double digit increase, ours is only a 2% increase. Dental coverage has increased by 4 percent.

Qualified members may sign up for PIPA when full Regular Member dues are paid. PIPA does not require all participants in your office be on the same plan. **Open enrollment for PIPA is Oct. 1 - Nov. 16, 2020 for a Jan. 1, 2021, effective date.** If you are currently enrolled in PIPA, you do not have to reapply. However, if you or your staff wish to make changes to your current plan, please do so no later than Nov. 16, 2020.

[Click here to see rates for 2021](#)

Vaccines & Therapeutics Outlook



The COVID-19 outbreak is first and foremost a societal crisis, threatening lives, and the well-being of our global community. Society now, more than ever, needs to collaborate to protect people’s lives and health, manage midterm implications, and search for lasting solutions. The document linked below intends to help leaders find answers and shape opinions to navigate the crisis in their own environments.

[See the presentation from BCG](#)

Updated Guidance on Repayment of Coronavirus Accelerated and Advance Payments



The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) worked quickly in the spring to provide financial assistance to physicians—a lifeline for many practices. Unfortunately, the initial terms of the AAP loans were too harsh; physicians would have 100% of their Medicare claims withheld to repay the loans on a short timeline, and after a few months any outstanding balances will be subject to a 10.25% interest rate.

Thanks in part to strong support from the Medical Association and the AMA, CMS recently enacted the "Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021 and Other Extensions Act" which amended the repayment terms for the Expanded Accelerated and Advance Payments (AAP) Program. Accordingly, repayment of any AAP will now begin one (1) year from the issuance date of the AAP. No action is necessary from providers. This repayment process will begin automatically.

[See more details here](#)

UAB Substance Use Disorder Project ECHO

UAB has started a Substance Use Disorder Project ECHO to help address the needs of our state as Substance Use has increased during COVID-19. Project ECHO uses videoconferencing technology to connect providers with content experts. Each "ECHO clinic" normally includes a brief, high-yield educational session, but most of the learning takes place during in-depth discussions of real-world cases submitted by ECHO participants. All participants contribute to the "all teach, all learn" discussion model, and clinical recommendations are shared. The videoconferencing software is provided at no cost, so all that's needed is Internet access and a smartphone or computer with a webcam and microphone. **The first ECHO will be held on October 13th at Noon.**

[This link will allow you to Register and Submit Cases.](#)

Upcoming ACHN Webinar for Primary Care Providers

A webinar for ACHN providers is scheduled October 14, 2020 from 12-noon until 1:00 p.m. The Alabama Medicaid Agency will discuss changes to MARA Risk Scoring on provider scorecards and provide additional information and reminders for providers. Attendees will have the opportunity to submit questions during the live webinar. The webinar will also be recorded and placed on the ACHN Provider page on the Medicaid website.

ACHN Provider Profiler Updates: MARA Risk Scoring Wednesday, October 14, 2020 Noon – 1 pm

Meeting number (access code): 133 888 5390

Meeting password: Medicaid1

or

Join by phone: 1-415-655-0001 US Toll

[WebEx Link](#)

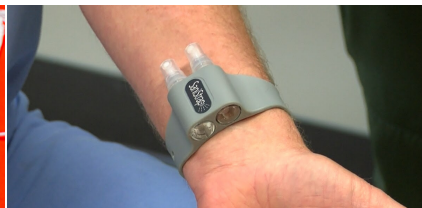


Need PPE?

PPE is still available!

- Direct Shipping now available
- Free shipping on orders over \$500
- No \$500 limit

[Click here for info.](#)



Sanistrap

SaniStrap contains wristband, two refillable bottles, and one travel size refill bottle. Sanitizer is NOT included in order - liquid gel sanitizer is recommended.

[Click here for info.](#)



Hand Sanitizer

Hand Sanitizer Options Available are:

70% Alcohol Gel Hand Sanitizer. Twelve (12), One (1) Liter bottles with pull-tab cap.

[Click here for info.](#)

WHAT WE'RE READING

- [Psychiatrists Can Now Apply for COVID-19 Provider Relief Funding](#)
- [Hydroxychloroquine does nothing to prevent COVID-19 deaths, study suggests](#)
- [Federal legislation's message to doctors: It's OK to ask for help](#)
- [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) in the U.S.](#)
- [Register for AMA webinar next week: CDC update on COVID-19 vaccine development and distribution](#)



MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
OF THE STATE OF ALABAMA

COVID-19

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The banner features a silhouette of a person sitting at a desk with a computer monitor, set against a light blue background with faint virus icons.



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