



IACP Position Statement on COVID-19

Chiropractic is an Essential Part of the Idaho Public Health Care Establishment

The situation surrounding COVID-19 is changing daily, and so must the response of the entire healthcare community. Local hospitals and urgent care centers may be inundated in the near future, with potentially thousands of patients losing access to basic healthcare services.

The IACP encourages all chiropractic physicians to remain open and to accept patients. Our goal is to maintain patient access to chiropractic, but more importantly, this is a public health emergency and chiropractic physicians have a vital role to play. In light of the heavy burdens placed on the majority of Idaho healthcare system, we in the chiropractic profession have a duty to continue to provide care that patients need, and may not be able to receive elsewhere

With many providers overwhelmed and inundated right now, patients are seeing longer wait times with less healthcare providers available to them. These patients will either compound the burden on hospitals and urgent care facilities, or worse, they will attempt to diagnose and treat themselves. This can be dangerous at any time, but even more so now. Chiropractic physicians are uniquely positioned to address these and other types of healthcare issues, which can greatly reduce the strain on our hospitals and urgent care facilities. By providing essential healthcare activities, doctors of chiropractic are able to reduce the stress on the patients, and the healthcare system in general, by continuing to function in their capacity. Should they choose, chiropractors can also screen and refer patients for testing if necessary.

As always, chiropractic physicians should use caution in patient care. They should follow the best practices outlined by the CDC and refer to their state and county health departments for the latest guidelines, which can change quickly in circumstances like this. They should perform a differential diagnosis on every patient, not only evaluating them for the condition with which they present, but also for potential infection. Any patient who is manifesting flu-like or COVID-19-like symptoms should call their chiropractor ahead of time to comply with office protocols for symptomatic individuals. Adjusting tables and equipment should be sanitized after each patient encounter. As portal-of-entry providers, chiropractic physicians must always assess the whole patient and determine what care they may need, even if it is not chiropractic. Patients should be treated as needed, but urgent cases should be prioritized. Chiropractors, should they choose to screen, should make themselves aware of the regulations and the precautions to take. We recommend calling the local health department for guidance on protocols as well as testing criteria as the information is continually evolving.

Our federal, state, and local healthcare officials have not restricted chiropractic during this outbreak because the chiropractic profession is essential to an emergent health crisis response such as COVID-19. The IACP urges all chiropractic physicians to continue their work as long as they are safely able to do so. Working together, our healthcare system as a whole will be better able to handle this health crisis and the IACP will be there, helping chiropractic physicians help our community.