



INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL
INTERPRETERS ASSOCIATION
Leading the advancement of professional interpreters

March 31, 2020

Dear interpreters,

We reach out to you during these uncertain times hoping that you are taking good care of yourselves and your family. We are filled with pride for so many interpreters that are still working at the front lines, either in person or from home, taking the time to learn new communication technologies, taking classes to better yourselves, and overall protecting access to language access across our country for the benefit of our limited English proficient patients. We are anxiously waiting for the curve of COVID-19 pandemic to flatten so our lives can return to normal. It is important to recognize the valor and service of our healthcare professionals for risking their own lives to serve others.

As we wait, we would like to bring you some resources that you might find useful:

We suggest that, if you haven't yet, you consider applying for unemployment benefits, to which some of you may qualify as independent contractors. As requirements and information will vary according to each state, we recommend doing a simple online search:

1. Look up "how to apply for unemployment + state" on a browser to find resources to do this.
2. To find information about the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, we recommend the [summary provided by the ATA](#).
3. CARES Application: <https://covid19relief.sba.gov/#/>

Regarding medical interpreter's professional safety, we'd like to recommend [these guidelines from the Oregon Health Authority](#).

We recommend being careful with information that circulates on social media. Always defer to official sources, such as the [WHO website](#) or the [CDC website](#). Be aware of potential scams. Never provide your personal information to strangers.

We encourage you to stay safe, stay at home as much as you can, follow the safety guidelines and orders from your local authorities, and above all, be responsible professionals, take the best care of yourselves, and the patients that we serve.

Let me know if we can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

David Cardona
IMIA President

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