



NYSATA Executive Council statement to membership re: COVID-19

Our sense of "normal" continues to be tested as daily developments occur amid the COVID-19 pandemic. While these alterations to our daily lives are in place may be inconvenient, they are necessary to help "slow the spread" of this virus. As we adjust our habits to protect ourselves, our families and our patients, it's important to stay abreast of the most current information available from the [Centers for Disease Control](#), [World Health Organization](#) and closer to home, the [NYS Department of Health](#) as well as your county health department.

Given the uncertain nature that COVID-19 has presented thus far, the NYSATA Executive Council has had multiple discussions this past week that included:

- ATs assisting the NYS COVID-19 response as reserve health professions --> Sent a letter to the NYS Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services and all NYS county health departments to alert them of the ATs knowledge, skills and abilities.
- Encouraging members to visit the NYS Department of Health's ["Get Involved: How You Can Help"](#) page to complete the survey for Health Professionals should there be a shortage of qualified health care workers.
- Encouraging members to heed the ["Call for ATs" by the NATA](#) and sign-up on the Go4Ellis platform as another avenue to get connected should there be a shortage of health care workers.
- Switching Lobby Day scheduled April 21st from an in-person experience to a virtual experience -- **more info coming soon!**
- The status of NYSATA Annual Conference, scheduled June 5-6th. The status will be decided during the first week of April, if not before -- **membership will be notified immediately.**

Please remember, ATs called into service as a reserve health professional as part of this crisis, **MUST** adhere to the state practice act. All ATs must ensure proper physician supervision / orders and stay within the scope practice. Don't assume that standing physician orders from regular or per diem AT work arrangements are appropriate. Should a new opportunity arise at a hospital system or as part of another medical entity, physician supervision / orders should come from the medical director or physician tied to the medical facility / entity that you are serving. You may need to educate medical administrators on this fact as they may not be familiar with AT requirements. Lastly, ensure you have proper liability insurance; determine if the entity provides or if you need to provide your own.

We know that this crisis will affect everyone differently, some harder than others, but we are all in this together. Take care of your families, check on your neighbors and most of all stay healthy.