



March 24, 2020

Dear AARST Members, NRPP Professionals and Friends:

**The Coronavirus pandemic is causing a national health and economic crisis that is affecting all aspects of our nation's life.** The number of deaths is now approaching a rate that doubles every three days, partially due to the fact that people without any symptoms carry and transmit the virus for up to 14 days.

AARST wants you and your employees, customers and loved ones to remain safe and healthy. Because we are all in the preventative health care business, we know you want to make informed moral decisions that protect everyone in both your business life and personal life.

According to the most recent projections, the ability of the nation to provide effective clinical care may be overwhelmed by the end of March. We can each play a part in flattening the curve of cases and deaths.

In some states, practitioners have already or may soon have their economic and business activities closed or limited by emergency decrees issued by local and state governments.

**AARST seriously encourages you to consider self-distancing practices that limit your contact with others.** This may by necessity include limiting or ceasing business operations. Hopefully the duration would be a short time. Avoiding any contact with others by staying home is often described as "sheltering in place."

Your state's Department of Health, the CDC and WHO remain excellent sources of information.

Meanwhile, here are some recommendations and details on how to protect yourself and others if you have to go out.

### **Customer Interface Practices**

First, follow and honor instructions from any emergency declaration with your state or territory or tribe— usually issued by the Governor, sometimes issued by a city or county or other ruling body. Consider the implications that you may be a carrier and asymptomatic. If you are allowed to work, follow these guidelines:

- Reschedule your appointment if you feel sick, or if you exhibit

symptoms of a respiratory illness.

- Carry your own antibacterial soap, towel, and hand sanitizer.
- Use hand sanitizer before entering the home and wash your hands thoroughly before and throughout your time on the premises.
- Wear disposable shoe booties when entering.
- Avoid shaking hands, bumping fists, or even touching elbows.
- Don't touch your face.
- Wipe the doorknob inside and outside as you enter and leave the building.

## **Partner Interface Practices**

Plan ahead!

Be aware that some facilities and partners you rely on may experience delays in supplies and personnel resources (i.e., if their suppliers are not considered an "essential service") and this may delay such things as calibration or product shipment. This could vary over time and be affected by regional, state and federal policies. Your AARST partners in manufacturing, equipment and lab services are planning to provide the proper resources but realize they may have to abide by state rules that slow down the process. AARST member companies are well managed and have created plans to support you. They are currently communicating with their customer bases and we are sure they will keep you informed. We doubt that radon laboratories will be significantly impacted.

## **Economic Impacts**

Most of the COVID relief legislation proposals before Congress have aid for small business through the SBA, and there are provisions for sole proprietors to also receive unemployment compensation in case of closure. Stay informed with proper sources – the federal office of the Small Business Association and your State's Employment office should have details specific to your state on their web pages. AARST will provide more on the economic recovery packages when the final packages are signed into law.

## **Long Term Practices and Outlook**

This pandemic may last a long time – it's too early to tell. We can do our part by engaging in the simple practices of hand washing and physical distancing to ensure best safe practices until the medical community solves the problem. The recovery may take weeks, months or longer, but we're a part of the health business and we can use simple and practical steps to protect ourselves, our coworkers and our customers.

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