



URGENT ACTION NEEDED TODAY – Contact Your Governor to Urge Them to Make Changes to State Supervision Requirements for Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists, and Speech-Language Pathologists

Dear NASL Members:

The COVID-19 pandemic has made it difficult for rehabilitation therapists to continue to provide rehabilitation therapy services to our patients. Medicare has waived many requirements at the federal level; however, we also need additional state-level flexibility.

Licensed physical therapists (PTs), occupational therapists (OTs), speech-language pathologists (SLPs) and assistants comprise a versatile group of practitioners who are essential to long term care and are well-trained and highly skilled in their respective disciplines.

For the safety of our rehabilitation therapy workforce and our patients, we need additional flexibility in our state requirements in order to reduce exposure to patients and providers. The state requirements of these professions call for certain tasks to be performed in-person, on-site, or face-to-face which in these public health emergency times, may unnecessarily put them at risk of exposure to COVID-19. Similarly, there are other requirements that relate to supervision between, for example, a supervisor therapist and a therapist/therapy assistant. In several instances, the regulations specifically call face-to-face supervision, or require that both supervisor and supervisee be on the same premises. This too creates risks of transmission if, for example, one person has the virus and is asymptomatic.

For this email writing campaign, NASL is asking for our members to please contact your state governor's office and urge them to temporarily suspend or waive the state supervision requirements for physical therapists, occupational therapists, and speech-language pathologists for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

On April 30th, CMS/Medicare authorized physical therapists, occupational therapists, and speech-language pathologists to provide services via telehealth for the duration of the COVID-19 public health emergency. There is no additional detail whether this extends to the nursing facility setting.

We expect that CMS will provide further direction related to this change in the coming days. While we await further clarification from Medicare, we ask that NASL members proceed with this state-level campaign.

URGENT ACTION NEEDED TODAY

Please contact your state governor's office and urge them to temporarily suspend or waive the state supervision requirements for physical therapists, occupational therapists, and speech-language pathologists for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency.

NASL thanks you for your advocacy on behalf of our patients during this challenging and unprecedented time.

CALL TO ACTION

In order to increase patient and practitioner safety and decrease exposure to the virus, NASL needs your help. We are asking for our members to contact your governors today to urge them to temporarily suspend all statutory and regulatory requirements for rehabilitation therapists that require direct supervision, or contact/interaction that is "in-person," "face-to-face," "on-site," "on the premises" or the like.

Follow the instructions provided below to contact your governor, and use the template letter that NASL has prepared for you to send.

Instructions for Submitting Letters to Your Governor

Step 1: Below please find a link to a template letter that has been prepared by NASL. Please note that the template letter needs to be filled in appropriately where noted with your specific state information before it is sent.

The Governor template letter can be accessed here:

https://netforum.avectra.com/Public/DocumentGenerate.aspx?wbn_key=44fda751-31d1-42fe-8779-d61013a1649d.docx%20

Step 2: Below you will find a list of the 21 target states, and governor contact information, that NASL has identified. Locate the state where you live and/or practice and you will see links provided that will take you to either the governor's contact page or to a specific email address for a staffer in the governor's office. If your state only has a governor contact page, you will need to go to that page, fill in the required contact information, and then copy and paste where appropriate the message from the template letter provided above. If your governor has a contact email, then you would just need to copy and paste the message from the letter template above into an email and send. **(NOTE - Don't forget to edit the templates to reflect your specific state).**

Step 3: Please copy NASL's membership address on your emails when you submit them. NASL's membership address is membership@nasl.org.

Step 4: For any additional questions or concerns, please email Michael Barnett at michael@nasl.org.

Select Your State from the List Below:

Arkansas

- Governor Contact Page: <https://governor.arkansas.gov/online-services/contact-us/>

California

- Governor Contact Page: <https://govapps.gov.ca.gov/gov40mail/>

Colorado

- Governor Contact Page: <https://www.colorado.gov/governor/contact-us>
- Governor Contact: Governorpolis@state.co.us

Georgia

- Governor Contact Page: <https://gov.georgia.gov/contact-us>

Hawaii

- Governor Contact Page: <https://governor.hawaii.gov/contact-us/contact-the-governor/>

Idaho

- Governor Contact Page: <https://gov.idaho.gov/contact-us/>
- Governor Contact: governor@gov.idaho.gov

Illinois

- Governor Contact Page: <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/gov/contactus/pages/default.aspx>

Iowa

- Governor Contact Page: <https://governor.iowa.gov/>

Kansas

- Governor Contact Page: <https://governor.kansas.gov/contact/>

Massachusetts

- Governor Contact Page: <https://www.mass.gov/person/charlie-baker-governor>
- Governor Contact: constituent.services@state.ma.us

Michigan

- Governor Contact Page: https://www.michigan.gov/whitmer/0,9309,7-387-90498_90663---,00.html

Minnesota

- Governor Contact Page: <https://mn.gov/governor/contact/>

Mississippi

- Governor Contact Page: https://www.ms.gov/State/Elected_Officials

- Governor Contact: governor@govreeves.ms.gov

Missouri

- Governor Contact Page: <https://governor.mo.gov/contact-us>

Montana

- Governor Contact Page: <http://governor.mt.gov/contact>

Nebraska

- Governor Contact Page: <https://governor.nebraska.gov/contact-form>

New Jersey

- Governor Contact Page: <https://www.state.nj.us/governor/contact/all/>

South Dakota

- Governor Contact Page: https://iqconnect.lmhostediq.com/igextranet/EForm.aspx?_cid=FSL_SD_GOV&_fid=2100060

Tennessee

- Governor Contact Page: <https://www.tn.gov/governor/contact-us.html>

Virginia

- Governor Contact Page: <https://www.governor.virginia.gov/constituent-services/communicating-with-the-governors-office/>

Wyoming

- Governor Contact Page: <https://governor.wyo.gov/contact/governors-staff>
- Governor Contact: darlena.potter@wyo.gov

This e-mail was sent from National Association for the Support of Long Term Care (membership@nasl.org)



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