

Center to Advance Palliative Care



Dear Friends, Supporters, Colleagues, and Members,

I am writing to reach out to our community with words of support at this confusing and difficult time in our country, in our health care systems, and in our families. The spread of COVID-19 virus is not only causing infection, but also panic, fear, and the media storm so often associated with these emotions.

I am reminded that we see this process every day in our work as we accompany patients and families confronting similarly frightening news and uncertain outcomes. The skills we use every day at the bedside in our work—listening, curiosity about what people are feeling, support for priority setting, and a calm presence—are the same skills we need to navigate this situation. Because our patient population—those living with serious illness—are in the highest risk group for complications and death associated with COVID-19, they and their loved ones are not only particularly vulnerable but also particularly stressed by the current situation. Specific guidance for patients and families is available on the link below.

As always, we will remember to be present for our patients as well as one another, listening, and contributing as best we can to an atmosphere of professionalism, calm, and focus on our top priorities—the needs and concerns of the patients and families we serve, as well as those of our colleagues, and our families.

- To help provide reassurance and support to your [patients and their families](#), the CDC has guidance for those living with serious illness, and their caregivers.
- To help clinicians to understand and provide recommended care, the CDC [guidance for health professionals](#) is a helpful source.
- Guidance specific to care setting ([home](#), [health care institution](#), [office practices](#)) is also available.

Thank you, as always, for all that you do to support our patients and one another. In the meantime, we at CAPC are here for support. **Special virtual office hours to discuss the impact of the COVID-19 virus on palliative care teams and ongoing service delivery and how we are navigating them, will be announced shortly.**

We will get through this as we always do, together.

Diane E. Meier, MD
Director, Center to Advance Palliative Care

