

Transcript 2 – Introduction of the COVID-19 Response Task Force

Dear members of the allergy/immunology community,

I'm Mary Beth Fasano, President of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology. Hope you're doing well, and I wanted to keep you posted on Academy efforts to provide resources and support during these challenging times.

In particular, I wanted to introduce you to our new Academy COVID-19 Task Force, whose charge will include number one, continuing to monitor the impact of the pandemic on our practicing allergist/immunologist, our academic divisions of allergy/immunology and our fellow fellows-in-training. Number two, serve as a rapid response team. Number three, continue to develop and disseminate critical resources for allergy/immunology practice both now as well as in the aftermath of the pandemic. And number four, to work with Hart Health to assure that our voices are heard on both the state and federal level, particularly as it relates to assuring coverage for telehealth services nationwide, home infusions, medication and supply shortages, and the financial impact of the pandemic on practices as well as hospital systems.

Let me quickly introduce you to the members of the Task Force. Paul Williams with Northwest Asthma and Allergy will serve as Chair. Paul also chairs our Advocacy Committee and is on the Academy Board of Directors. Frank Virant is also with Northwest Asthma and Allergy and a current Board of Directors member. As you can imagine, with both Paul and Frank being out in Seattle, they're really in the epicenter of practice change. Jim Sussman, who is Chair of the Regional, State, and Local Allergy/Immunology Societies joins us from his practice in Santa Fe, New Mexico. On the east coast, we have Drew Murphy and Sharon Markovics. Drew oversees the Office of Practice Management. He has a practice in southeastern Pennsylvania, and then Sharon, one of our Board of Director members, joins us from New York. In the middle of the country, Mitch Grayson at Ohio State and Dave Stukus is also at Ohio State Nationwide Children's Hospital, are members of the task force. You may know that Dave also oversees the Conversations from the World of Allergy podcasts that we host as our Social Media Editor. Myself as well as Tom Fleischer, the Executive Vice President for the Academy, serve as ex-officio members.

The Task Force is looking forward to your questions and comments. Please email the task force at practicematters@aaaai.org. We value and we need your input. Thanks for listening in and stay healthy.