

Dear members and friends of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology,

This is Mary Beth Fasano, current President of the Academy. It has certainly been another challenging week for all of us, and I hope that you have been staying safe and been staying healthy. As you may recall, the Academy has established a special COVID-19 Task Force. The Task Force has been extremely busy working to address your questions and concerns and has been posting on a daily, or almost daily basis, updated, relevant and hopefully helpful tips for you, as we all work to navigate through this pandemic.

Over the past week, probably one of the most common questions or concerns that have been posed to the Task Force relate to practice viability. As you know, Congress has recently passed a relief package for employees and for small businesses, and information regarding the CARES Act, as well as practical tips for how to manage expenses and sustain practice viability can be found on our website. I would also encourage you to stay in touch with your state medical society as they will likely have special information for you in your communities related to how to work with lenders, as well as with insurers for telemedicine coverage, etc.

I wanted to highlight just a few specific tips from Dr. Priya Bansal who is one of the members of our Task Force. Priya, as you may know, is a practicing allergist/immunologist in the state of Illinois and also serves as the Chair of the Academy's Practice Management Committee. And Priya highlighted three things that I'd like to share with you. First, is encouraging all of us to adapt to practice change, both as it relates to bridging patient coverage via telemedicine and also working with your staff to provide rotation in their workflow as well as cross training. Number two, encouraging everyone to apply for small business loans, and also to avail yourself of resources from the federal government. Number three, to work to continue to provide allergen immunotherapy and care for your asthmatic patients as well as your other patients, but keeping in mind that you will need to identify practice modifications.

In closing, please remember to continue to send your questions to the COVID-19 Task Force at [practicematters@aaaai.org](mailto:practicematters@aaaai.org). Take care. Thanks.