



PRESS RELEASE

ASN Contacts:

Christine Feheley (202) 640-4638 | cfeheley@asn-online.org

Tracy Hampton thampton@nasw.org

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEPHROLOGY PROVIDES INSIGHTS ON COVID-19 AND KIDNEY DISEASE

Highlight

- The American Society of Nephrology has launched several initiatives to provide guidance on COVID-19 as it relates to the care of patients with kidney disease.

Washington, DC — The pandemic of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is especially threatening to patients with kidney diseases and to their caregivers. The American Society of Nephrology (ASN) has launched several initiatives to provide accurate and updated COVID-19–related information on an ongoing basis to clinicians who care for patients with kidney diseases.

As an initial step, ASN, in conjunction with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), has established a COVID-19 Response Team. Nephrologists, CDC physicians, infection preventionists, and dialysis nurses meet weekly to acquire new information and share it with the community, inform best practices, and adapt to the changing environment as the pandemic spreads.

ASN's publications—*JASN*, *CJASN*, and *Kidney360*—will provide valid, peer reviewed information on COVID-19 as quickly as possible, with collections updated with new articles as soon as they are published. Recent examples include the following:

- In a *CJASN* article on COVID-19, experts brought together the evidence-based guidance of the CDC and the practical judgment of clinicians to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 in dialysis facilities, offering information on patient screening, placement, and instructions; use of face masks and other personal protective equipment by staff; disinfection practices; and communication with health departments. (<https://doi.org/10.2215/CJN.03340320>)
- A *Kidney360* article offers the perspective of 2 U.S. nephrologists on managing patients undergoing hemodialysis who have suspected or confirmed COVID-19, noting the steps and precautions taken for patients presenting to dialysis clinics or emergency departments. (<https://doi.org/10.34067/KID.0001452020>)
- Another *CJASN* article provides insights from clinicians in Washington state whose patient—who had been undergoing outpatient hemodialysis—was the first

to die from COVID-19 in the United States. A series of policies and procedures were immediately put in place to protect other patients and staff.
(<https://doi.org/10.2215/CJN.03540320>)

- The effects of certain antihypertension drugs on the virus that causes COVID-19 is the topic of another *CJASN* article. The authors stress that these medications are critical to the health of many patients, who should continue to take them as prescribed until definitive studies can determine whether they inhibit the virus or make people more susceptible to infection. The authors have created a website that is being updated in real time to provide a reliable source of information (<http://www.nephjc.com/news/covidace2>). (<https://doi.org/10.2215/CJN.03530320>)

Additional articles on treating patients with kidney diseases during the COVID-19 pandemic will be published in ASN's journals as soon as they are available, at <http://bit.ly/ASNJournalsCOVID-19>. Also, along with articles published in *JASN*, *CJASN*, and *Kidney360*, more resources on COVID-19 can be found on the ASN Nephrologists Transforming Dialysis Safety (NTDS) Website, at <https://www.asn-online.org/ntds>.

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Since 1966, ASN has been leading the fight to prevent, treat, and cure kidney diseases throughout the world by educating health professionals and scientists, advancing research and innovation, communicating new knowledge, and advocating for the highest quality care for patients. ASN has more than 21,000 members representing 131 countries. For more information, visit www.asn-online.org.

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