

Dear ASE members,

As we all grapple with the unexpected impact of the coronavirus pandemic on every aspect of our lives, I wanted to provide you with some information on how ASE is responding.

The 2019 novel coronavirus, or severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2) that results in coronavirus disease-2019 (COVID-19), continues to impact every aspect of our lives. Healthcare providers, who are at the frontlines in the battle against disease, are at high risk when we participate in the care of patients who are suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19. ASE is committed to the health, safety and wellbeing of our members.

At this time, we encourage you to follow your institution's guidelines, and trusted sources, such as the [CDC](#), and federal guidance on COVID-19 preparedness. We understand that many of you have questions regarding performance of elective procedures, triage, personal protective equipment and cleaning of equipment. ASE has organized a live webinar on COVID-19 preparedness for echo labs, which will feature experts who are at the frontlines in this battle. You may register online for free [here](#). Please spread the word among your colleagues and have your questions answered and share your own experiences. A social media thread on Twitter has been organized using the hashtag [#EchoFirstSafety](#).

In addition, we have created a discussion thread for members on Connect@ASE which may be accessed [here](#). I urge you to share your lab's protocols and ask questions to enhance our knowledge base. A COVID-19 resource page has been created on the following ASE site, which may be accessed [here](#).

A small group of experts are preparing an ASE statement with pooled information that will help guide echo labs on recommendations for dealing with the pandemic and protecting our patients and healthcare providers. The statement will be released soon.

As of today, March 16th, the ASE headquarters has instituted a work from home policy for all staff members. More details are available [here](#).

We are all in unfamiliar territory. While we struggle with uncertainty and stress, it is important to remember that we are all in this together and we will all get through this together as a community that cares for each other. Take a moment amidst this crisis to check in with your colleagues and your family members, especially the elderly and vulnerable among us. ASE remains strong with our committed member volunteers, dedicated staff, and engaged leadership.

Please do not hesitate to send any questions or concerns by email at President@ASEcho.org.

Sincerely,
Madhav Swaminathan, MD, FASE
ASE President

[COVID-19 Resource Page](#)

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