

COMMITTEE OF INTERNS AND RESIDENTS' NATIONAL DEMANDS

The Committee of Interns and Residents **demands protections and adequate resources** for all interns, resident physicians, fellows and their larger communities. Hospitals and government institutions must provide healthcare workers, who put their lives at risk every day, with the support they need to **effectively navigate the COVID-19 pandemic.**

PROTECTION DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

COVID Exposure Guidelines:

Require universal guidelines and protocols for healthcare workers for COVID exposure, including access to testing, self-quarantine measures and paid leave for those affected by exposure that will not adversely affect their residency completion status.

COVID Exposure in Residents:

Require hospitals to develop non-punitive leave policies in adherence with public health guidelines, including protections for residents deemed high risk.

Protection When Treating COVID-Specific Patients: Require hospitals adhere to a protocol that ensures minimization of exposure risk for housestaff, including appropriate PPE.

COVID Testing: Require all hospital staff have timely access to testing arranged or provided by their home institution.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Require hospitals to include the needs of house staff when purchasing necessary PPE such as masks, respirators, gowns and gloves

Housing for Exposed Residents and Housing for our Communities: Require temporary housing accommodations for residents to minimize exposure of COVID to their families and communities.

Childcare: Ensure that emergency childcare services and/or stipends are available for resident physicians affected by emergency school or daycare closure decisions.

WORKPLACE RIGHTS

Right to Organize: Recognition that all interns, residents and fellows have the right to unionize for fair wages and safe working conditions.

Out of Specialty Work: Ensure that resident physicians are appropriately working within their scope of practice.

International Residents: Require immediate resumption of premium processing for H-1B cases.

Incoming Interns and Onboarding: Require that all incoming interns, residents and fellows are provided health benefits, adequate orientation to their hospital facility, diagnostic protocols, union rights and protections.

Hazard Pay – Appropriate Pay: Require residents be paid appropriately for their work, including moonlighting or working at a level superior to their training and hazard pay.

Staffing and Funding: No resident shall be forced to take any form of unpaid leave, and guarantee that any changes in rotation or missed time due to COVID-19 will not result in the extension of residency training.

Mental Health: Direct hospitals and residency programs to provide temporary disability accommodations for house staff who are experiencing psychiatric or physical disability.

Gag Order: Require no disciplinary action be taken against any resident who talks to the press, uses social media to address issues occurring in their hospitals.

Academic Protections: Require programs to accommodate residents in meeting their graduation requirements.

PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITIES

Housing: Demand a national moratorium on evictions and provide adequate facilities to be used for isolation housing for undomiciled patients.

Mental Health Services: Demand mental health services continue to be provided and expanded at low or no cost.

COVID Testing: Drastically and urgently increase production and distribution of COVID-19 testing and increase access to testing at no cost through means that decrease the strain on Emergency Departments.

Resource Use and Manufacturing: With life supportive equipment at a critical demand and limited availability, we require clear ALS guidelines by the hospital to ensure all resources are used effectively.

Coverage for Immigrants: Expand on the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act to ensure Emergency Medicaid coverage and access to healthcare and public services for undocumented immigrants affected by COVID-19, without impact on their immigration status.

Vulnerable Populations: Individuals living in congregate environments, such as detention centers, prisons and homeless shelters, must have access to COVID-19 testing as well as any possible preventative measures that must be taken to decrease the spread of the COVID-19 virus.



**Committee of
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Residents**
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