



**Oregon Chapter**  
**American College of**  
**Emergency Physicians**

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## **OR-ACEP POLICY POSITIONS and COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

Emergency physicians are on the front lines of caring for people affected with COVID-19, often at great risk to themselves and their families. As the state medical society representing emergency medicine, OR-ACEP strongly advocates for measures to keep patients and healthcare workers safe, especially as community transmission spreads. For that reason, the chapter supports the following policies to protect the safety of Oregonians and the Oregon health care workforce that is critical to addressing the pandemic.

ACEP's [recommendations](#) center around three main objectives: providing access to care for those infected or suspected infected; securing an adequate health care workforce; and ensuring adequate resource allocation. Among the specific policy changes, ACEP and OR-ACEP recommends:

- Implementing alternative testing centers for faster, more cost-effective testing while freeing up hospital capacity for those who need it most and allowing those who test positive to self-quarantine;
- Ensuring full coverage of testing and diagnosis by payers without patient cost-sharing;
- Prioritizing availability of personal protective equipment for emergency workers and other frontline personnel responding to the outbreak;
- Ensuring the production of medications and supplies relevant to COVID-19 is prioritized and that they are distributed directly to needed sites of care; and
- Increasing transparency of the supply chain for these products to better identify and proactively address potential shortages.

Furthermore, OR-ACEP supports these policies:

- Social distancing and "safety-at-home" policies to keep people out of the ED and to protect vulnerable patients and the healthcare workforce that is critical to addressing the pandemic.
- Maintaining appropriate outpatient follow-up for those without COVID-19 concerns.
- Minimize harm to emergency health care providers in the workplace.

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