



IDFPR

Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation

Division of Professional Regulation

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Notice that Advice or Treatment Regarding Covid-19 Must Conform with Evidence-Based Medicine and Standards of Care

IDFPR is issuing this notice to remind physicians and other healthcare professionals that any advice or treatment provided to a patient must conform with evidence-based medicine and standards of care and that failure to do so may subject the individual to disciplinary action under the Medical Practice Act.

Licensed healthcare professionals have an ethical and professional duty to the public and are entrusted to protect the public health and the safety of their patients. “Engaging in dishonorable, unethical, or unprofessional conduct of a character likely to deceive, defraud or harm the public,” is a violation under the [Medical Practice Act](#) at 225 ILCS 60/22(A)(5). The Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) is aware of licensed healthcare professionals providing misinformation regarding COVID-19 mitigations and treatment.

MASK EXEMPTIONS

Pursuant to various orders and administrative regulations, individuals may be required to wear face coverings in certain environments – such as schools and indoor public places – to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has set forth [guidelines](#) for wearing masks. Individuals may be exempt from such requirements if wearing such a face covering is medically contraindicated. A physician or other licensed healthcare professional who provides a mask exemption to an individual with whom they do not have a clinician-patient relationship and for whom they have not provided a medical diagnosis that justifies a mask exemption as put forth in the CDC guidelines, is in violation of their respective licensing Act and may be subject to disciplinary action by IDFPR.

IVERMECTIN AND OTHER NON-FDA APPROVED TREATMENTS

Any medication prescribed by a physician or other licensed healthcare professional must be consistent with the standard of care and appropriate clinical indications for each patient. Specifically, Ivermectin is not authorized or approved by the [Food and Drug Administration](#) (FDA) for prevention or treatment of COVID-19. Ivermectin is a prescription medication approved by the FDA to treat certain parasitic infections and has no approved use to treat COVID-19. The CDC has issued an [official health advisory](#) regarding the reports of severe illness associated with use of products containing Ivermectin to prevent or treat COVID-19. A physician or other licensed healthcare professional who prescribes Ivermectin in a manner inconsistent with the CDC’s recommendations may be subject to discipline.

MISINFORMATION

IDFPR will follow the [joint statement](#) released by the American Board of Family Medicine, American Board of Internal Medicine, and American Board of Pediatrics on dissemination of misinformation regarding COVID-19 by board certified physicians. Specifically, the joint statement concluded that “providing misinformation about a lethal disease is unethical, unprofessional and dangerous.” IDFPR also supports the Federation of State Medical Boards’ (FSMB) [statement](#) on misinformation relating to COVID-19 and emphasizes that physicians have an ethical and professional duty to practice medicine in the best interests of their patients based on factual and scientifically established information.

Anyone who becomes aware of a licensed health professional’s dissemination of misinformation or practice inconsistent with current state and federal guidelines may file a [complaint](#) with the IDFPR.