



This **guide is for naturopathic state associations and licensed naturopathic doctors** who are ready, willing and able to support our medical colleagues during this current public health crisis. Included are **checklists, resources, and templates to help your state, community, and practice during the COVID-19 pandemic.**

Where To Start as a State Association?

State Associations in *Licensed States*:

Use this [AANP Statement Urging Authorities to Include and Use Licensed Naturopathic Doctors in Plans to Combat the Novel Coronavirus Pandemic](#) To:



Contact Your Governor's Office



Offer that NDs can augment the healthcare workforce.

Use the AANP Statement above as a tool to ask to include NDs in:

- [Definitions of "Essential Workforce."](#)
- Emergency Orders** to allow practitioners licensed in other states to work in your state.
- Guidelines for practitioners licensed in other states to be able to practice **telemedicine** in your state.

Need help crafting language? [Here is a customizable AANP letter crafted for licensed states.](#)



Contact Your State Legislative Champions



Using the AANP Statement above, ask them to urge the Governor to allow NDs temporary licenses to supplement the healthcare workforce and utilize NDs to the full extent of their education and training.

Need help crafting language? [Here is a sample template.](#)



Contact Your Local Health Department



Reach out to the Provider Engagement Department or similar equivalent to share the AANP statement above and educate them that naturopathic doctors are available and willing to help.

[Find your local health department here.](#)



Contact Your Local Media, Health Departments, and Hospital Executives



Share [this AANP statement that urges physicians and hospitals to utilize IV Vitamin C to combat the COVID-19 pandemic](#) with your local media, health departments, and hospital executives.



Other Resources for Your State Association:

- If at any point you need assistance from the AANP, [please contact us.](#)
- The Institute for Natural Medicine (INM) has created a **comprehensive media package** for public-facing content and references, just for naturopathic medical state associations. [View it here.](#)

Where To Start as a State Association?

State Associations in *Pre-licensed States*:

Note: Please consult with your lobbyist and state leadership to discuss the best way(s) to utilize these resources and templates on this page - and the best timing! If you'd like more support and guidance specific to the needs of your state (especially if you don't have a local lobby firm), [please reach out to AANP](#).



Contact Your Governor's Office

Below are several ways to offer that NDs can augment the healthcare workforce. Consult with your lobbyist to determine which methods work best for your state.

1. Use [this AANP Statement](#) as a tool to ask to include NDs in:

- [Definitions of "Essential Workforce"](#).
- Emergency Orders** to allow practitioners licensed in other states to work in your state.
- Guidelines for practitioners licensed in other states to be able to practice **telemedicine** in your state.

Need help crafting language? [Here is a customizable AANP letter crafted for pre-licensed states](#).

2. To offer the service of its members as a resource to the state and local communities:

- [Sample Proposal \(Provided by NYANP\)](#)
- [Sample Letter \(Provided by GANP\)](#)



Contact Your State Legislative Champions

Share [this AANP statement](#) urging states to license NDs and ask your legislative champions if a licensure bill would be appropriate during this health crisis. All policymakers are looking to quickly address healthcare workforce shortages. Naturopathic Doctors are trained and available and can help fill this gap with appropriate licensure.

Ask them to urge the Governor to temporarily recognize NDs who hold a license in another state to the full extent of their education and training to quickly supplement the healthcare workforce.



Contact Your Local Health Department

Reach out to the Provider Engagement Department or similar equivalent to share [the AANP statement](#) and educate them that naturopathic doctors are available and willing to help. [Find your local health department here](#).



Contact Your Local Media, Health Departments, and Hospital Executives (*optional*)

To share [this AANP statement that urges physicians and hospitals to utilize IV Vitamin C to combat the COVID-19 pandemic](#). **Note: Sharing this statement is at the discretion of your state leadership.** Please work among your leadership and with your lobbyist to determine if sharing this statement will best serve your state's interests, locally.



Other Resources for Your State Association:

- **Need a letter of support?** AANP can provide you with a letter of support urging health authorities to license NDs temporarily and beyond. Please reach out to traci.hobson@naturopathic.org to get a customized letter.
- The Institute for Natural Medicine (INM) has created a **comprehensive media package** for public-facing content and references, just for state associations. [View it here](#).

Where To Start as an Individual ND?

How Can *I* Help?



Does Your State Have an Active ND Association?

Yes

Your state association may have ongoing efforts that you can contribute to in some way. They may have already begun communicating with regulatory authorities to discover whether or not NDs are included as providers in conventional facilities, particularly during a state of emergency.

It's important to **check in with your state association**, to ensure that any actions individual NDs might take are consistent with the state's overall strategy. PLEASE BE PATIENT and be aware that your state association might be overwhelmed by this public health crisis.

Find contact information for your state association [here](#).

If you have trouble contacting your state association, please [contact the AANP](#) for the latest on what's going on in your state.

No

If there aren't any active state association efforts, contact the AANP and read on for other steps you can take!

Not Sure? [Check Here](#).



Does Your State Emergency Declaration Include NDs in Provisions of Emergency Services?

Under the Emergency Declarations of many states, NDs qualify for temporary licensing to help assist in the need for medical personnel. Some of these states already license NDs, but some do not. Check the information for your state on [the AANP Chart](#).



Join the Medical Reserve Corps

Apply to the Medical Reserve Corps

To learn more and volunteer or partner with your local Medical Reserve Corps (MRC):

1. Visit the [MRC national Web Page](#).
2. Click on the map at the lower left-hand side of the homepage, where it says, "Find a Unit." to locate the unit nearest you.
3. Once you have located the MRC unit nearest you, call and/or email the local MRC leader to discuss ways that you could contribute to the local MRC.

Where To Start as an Individual ND?

How Can *I* Help?



Continue Patient Care to Help Patients Abide by "Stay-at-Home" Orders

- Take your practice online and be available for telemedicine. Patients still have ongoing medical needs, and when possible, can be cared for virtually.

→ **Take Your Practice Online:**

[Watch: How to Quickly Take Your Business Online](#)

A free webinar to learn how you can quickly take your practice online through essential steps in telemedicine and marketing. Must be logged in OR create a free account to watch.

[Watch: How to Bill and Code for Your Practice \(Telemed\)](#)

A free webinar to help pivot your practice to an online platform, with new guidelines being released just this week to facilitate telemedicine for practitioners. Must be logged in OR create a free account to watch.

[Read: General Telemedicine Toolkit](#)

[Template: TeleHealth Consent Form](#)

Use free video conferencing platforms such as Facetime (for Apple products), and Skype (during the emergency) or a HIPAA compliant platform. [See Telemedicine Resources.](#)

→ **Communicating With Patients:**

Email your patients or use a **call loop service** to let them know you are available for telemedicine. *If you are an AANP member, log in and use the [Constant Contact member benefit](#) to receive a discount on email communications.*

[Sample message to patients to schedule a telemedicine visit with you \(can be sent via email or through recorded phone message like Call Loop\).](#)

→ **State TeleHealth Guidelines and Resource:**

Each state has different telemedicine guidelines. Please check with your naturopathic state association, your state health website, or check [the AANP COVID-19 page](#), under "Telemedicine Resources" for guidelines.

→ **Malpractice Coverage for Telehealth:**

The legality of practicing Telemed is up to the states as the laws and emergency actions vary from state to state. Please view the [AANP COVID-19 page](#), under the "Telemedicine Resources" section for more information.

Where To Start as an Individual ND?

Educate People About Naturopathic Medicine



Whether you are educating the public on social media, your patients through email communications, public health officials, or lawmakers, it is important to stick with the same message. Consistent and accurate talking points about NDs will help strengthen our collective voice. Use the talking points below when talking about NDs and naturopathic medicine.

- ▶ Licensed NDs are recognized by the U.S. Department of Labor.
- ▶ Naturopathic medical education is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.
- ▶ NDs are not yet recognized by CMS, yet are able to be reimbursed for services to patients with Medicare Advantage Plans through a provision of the Affordable Care Act.
- ▶ NDs are trained comparably to conventional doctors to diagnose and triage according to presenting symptoms, refer to the appropriate level of care, and support patients with home care management.
- ▶ NDs practice patient-centered medicine and tailor personalized care plans. In addition to all public health recommendations, NDs employ a toolkit of treatment approaches that can be used to support the body's inherent immune capacity to prevent viral infections, address viral infections directly, ease symptoms in those infected, and support recovery during post-infection care.
- ▶ NDs are poised to offer the following:
 - A physician-level workforce that can help to alleviate physician-level staffing shortages in both the outpatient and inpatient care settings for COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 related care.
 - NDs are trained and grounded in evidence-based standards of care and will ensure the highest quality and efficacy of care delivery.
 - NDs can help to advance clinical trials, formative research, and standards of practice around the use of alternative and complementary therapeutics in the current global pandemic.
 - ND physicians can help to advance all manner care delivery - including telemedicine - to underserved and marginalized populations who are disconnected from primary and longitudinal care - e.g. people experiencing homelessness, undocumented Latino/Hispanic, asylum-seeking groups, etc.
- ▶ There are many traditional treatments that NDs have historically used for both acute and chronic viral and bacterial infections. These include hydrotherapy, nutritional therapies, and herbal therapies. Many nutritional and herbal therapies have been studied and shown to demonstrate similar antiviral activity to pharmaceuticals.
- ▶ Whereas the naturopathic profession knows that no specific treatment has been approved to treat the infection and likely none will be available for a year, we are left to support our patients with the best-known, evidence-informed care we have.
- ▶ Naturopathic Doctors are experts in drug/herb, drug/nutrient interactions and play an important role when it comes to the integration of conventional and natural/holistic medicine.

For more resources to answer common inquiries about naturopathic medicine and treatments, please [click here](#).