

Dear Medical Community,

As the certification body and voice of nearly 100,000 Sonographers, the ARDMS urges lawmakers, government officials, health systems, private practices and other medical facilities to make Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) available for all Sonographers and diagnostic medical ultrasound professionals and to prioritize ultrasound examinations to only those which are critically necessary.

The Vital Role Sonographers and Diagnostic Medical Ultrasound Play in the Care of Patients:

Ultrasound is a highly effective diagnostic imaging tool used in the detection, diagnosis and management of numerous diseases – including COVID-19. Sonographers are highly trained, specialized medical imaging professionals who provide physicians and other patient care team members with critical insights into the condition and optimal treatment strategies for patients. Protecting the health and safety of Sonographers and all users of diagnostic medical ultrasound is an essential component for the healthcare community to function effectively.

Critical Measures to Protect the Health and Safety of Sonographers:

Access to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Sonographers are at greater risk for exposure to COVID-19 because most ultrasound exams require extended periods of time in direct contact with patients. Access to PPE resources will help Sonographers and all users of diagnostic medical ultrasound stay healthy while performing these vital diagnostic medical imaging studies and continuing their essential role in the care of patients.

Limit Elective Ultrasound Examinations: The urgency and need for diagnostic medical ultrasound varies depending on the disease and condition of the patient. Some ultrasound studies are crucial and vital for the timely diagnosis and care of patients. Other studies are elective, and part of long-term care plans used for monitoring conditions and disease progression. During the COVID-19 pandemic, ARDMS urges all medical facilities to prioritize critical ultrasound studies and to consider reducing elective studies to help limit the spread of COVID-19 and conserve PPE.

Maintain Standards of Care: Standards of care, practice guidelines, patient interaction protocols, and diagnostic medical imaging credentials are essential in everyday practice settings and critically important during a crisis. ARDMS honors and commends Sonographers and other diagnostic medical ultrasound professionals for maintaining these standards, for demonstrating proficiency through the attainment and upkeep of credentials and for their unwavering care of patients.

Thank you for joining the ARDMS in ensuring Sonographers and all users of diagnostic medical ultrasound have access to essential PPE resources and taking steps to reduce elective ultrasound examinations. It is together, as a united healthcare community, that we will navigate the COVID-19 pandemic and see our way to a better and healthier tomorrow.

In Good Health,



Tricia Turner, RDMS, RVT
Chair, ARDMS Council



Dale R. Cyr
CEO & Executive Director