



March 17, 2020

## POSITION STATEMENT ON THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK AND TESTING FOR PATIENTS WITH LIVER DISEASE

### GOVERNING BOARD 2020

#### PRESIDENT

Jorge A. Bezerra, MD, FAASLD  
Cincinnati Children's Hospital  
Cincinnati, OH

#### PRESIDENT-ELECT

Raymond T. Chung, MD, FAASLD  
Massachusetts General Hospital  
Boston, MA

#### SECRETARY

Meena B. Bansal, MD, FAASLD  
Icahn School of Medicine at  
Mount Sinai  
New York, NY

#### TREASURER

Vijay Shah, MD, FAASLD  
Mayo Clinic  
Rochester, MN

#### PAST PRESIDENT

Michael W. Fried, MD, FAASLD  
University of North Carolina  
Chapel Hill, NC

#### COUNCILORS

Laurie D. DeLeve, MD, PhD, FAASLD  
University of Southern California  
Los Angeles, CA

Norah Terrault, MD, MPH, FAASLD  
Keck Medical Center of USC  
Los Angeles, CA

W. Ray Kim, MD, FAASLD  
Stanford University Medical Center  
Stanford, CA

#### COUNCILORS-AT-LARGE

John R. Lake, MD, FAASLD  
University of Minnesota  
Minneapolis, MN

David C. Mulligan, MD, FACS, FAASLD  
Yale University  
New Haven, CT

Mary E. McCarthy Rinella, MD, FAASLD  
Northwestern University Feinberg  
School of Medicine  
Chicago, IL

#### CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Matthew R. D'Uva, FASAE, CAE

The American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD) and the undersigned individuals commend the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other federal, state and local health agencies for addressing the issue of testing of vulnerable populations – those most at risk of severe infection from COVID-19.

AASLD and our co-signers, which include health care providers, patients, and representatives of patient and community groups, focus on the prevention, treatment and cure of liver diseases. We strongly recommend that patients with chronic liver disease and those who have undergone liver transplantation be included on the list of immunocompromised patients considered vulnerable to COVID-19 infection and that they be given priority for testing if they manifest upper respiratory tract symptoms and/or fevers. This is even more important for patients residing in areas where clusters of COVID-19 have been reported.

Recognizing that access to timely diagnosis and care are critical to optimal outcomes of COVID-19 infection, we believe the Congress must ensure that the CDC develops a comprehensive list of vulnerable populations and is promptly expanded to include those persons with chronic liver disease and those who have undergone liver transplantation to ensure they receive appropriate care. A letter recommending including the inclusion of these patients considered vulnerable for the purposes of testing for COVID-19 infection. That letter is also attached to this email.

Sincerely,

Jorge A. Bezerra, MD, FAASLD  
AASLD President

Statement Co-Signed By:

Manal Abdelmalek, MD, MPH  
Eliana Z. Agudelo, PA-C  
Somaya Albhaisi, MBBCh, MD  
Cathy Ammons  
David N. Assis, MD  
Anna Beeman

Durham, NC  
San Francisco, CA  
Richmond, VA  
Clinton, NC  
New Haven, CT  
Hernando, MS

Jihane Benhammou, MD, PhD	Los Angeles, CA
Kristin Blick	Delmar, NY
Owen Borne IV	Belle Chasse, LA
Trudi Borne	Belle Chasse, LA
Jessica Callear, MS, MSACN	Athens, PA
Lauren Canary, MPH	Washington, DC
Tyler Carpenter	Colorado
Geoff Clopton Jr	Springfield, VA
Aimee Cronk	Clarksville, MI
Jennifer Davis	Springfield, VA
Tamir Diamond, MD	Philadelphia, PA
Bijan Eghtesad, MD	Cleveland, OH
Joel Elliott, JD	Canton, TX
Brittany Elliser	Baton Rouge, LA
Debra Faulkner	Mount Orab, OH
Michael Fuchs, MD, PhD, FAASLD, AGAF, FEBGH	Richmond, VA
Tracy Gade	Wallingford, CT
Valerie Green	Lancaster, VA
Paola Gonzalez, PA-C	Gainesville, FL
Denielle Haack	Hampton, VA
Steven-Huy B. Han, MD	Los Angeles, CA
Lizhou Huang, MD	Los Angeles, CA
Jasmine Hollingsworth	Baltimore, MD
Elizabeth A. James, MA, MSLS	Ann Arbor, MI
Richard Jaenisch	Carlsbad, CA
Sally Jordan, MBA	Centreville, VA
Amanda Kammes	Winfield, IL
David Kaplan, MD	Media, PA
Jenna Kawamoto, PharmD	Los Angeles, CA
D. Mare King	South Carolina
Karen Krok, MD	Hershey, PA
Laura Kulik, MD	Chicago, IL
Rita Kuwahara, MD, MIH	Durham, NC
Jennifer Lambert, PsyD	Lawrenceville, NJ
Maria LaPorte	Auburn, MA
Jennifer Lau	Chicago, IL
Daniel H. Leung, MD	Houston, TX
Steven Lidofsky, MD, PhD	South Burlington, VT
Anyelina Lopez	Orlando, FL
Keri E. Lunsford, MD, PhD, FACS	Newark, NJ
Niharika Mallepally, MD, MPH	Houston, TX
Rebecca Mauldin	Edmond, OK
Douglas Mogul, MD, PhD	Baltimore, MD
Andrew Moon, MD, MPH	Durham, NC

Kate Moraras, MPH	Arlington, VA
Brittany Munn	Akron, NY
Willscott Naugler, MD	Portland, OR
Alexander Nguyen, MD, MPH	Los Angeles, CA
Patty O'Sullivan	Wallingford, CT
Arpan Patel, MD	Los Angeles, CA
Bryon Petersen, PhD	Gainesville, FL
Puneet Puri, MD, FAASLD	Richmond, VA
Nikolaos Pырsopoulos, MD, PhD, MBA, FAASLD	Newark, NJ
Kennard Radford	Clio, MI
Natarajan Ravendhran, MD, FAASLD, AGAF	Baltimore, MD
Lura Rollins	Southaven, MS
Russell Rosenblatt, MD, MS	New York, NY
Michelle Rush	Slade, KY
Jordan Sack, MD	Boston, MA
Jordan Sarbaugh	Seattle, WA
Bridget Schank, MPP	Chicago, IL
Michael Schilsky, MD	New Haven, CT
Ekihiro Seki, MD, PhD	Torrance, CA
Mendi Selmani	Brookfield, CT
Amit Shah, MD	Philadelphia, PA
Krupa Shah, JD	Chicago, IL
Stephanie Skrede	Kaukauna, WI
Kristen Slinsky- Selmani	Brookfield, CT
Richard Sterling, MD, MSc	Richmond, VA
Dharma Sunjaya, MD	Atlanta, GA
Tamar H. Taddei, MD	New Haven, CT
Stacey Tarasiewicz	Wallingford, CT
Amy Thorsen	New Milford, CT
Alexandra Torres	Rocklin, CA
Sue Wang, MD, MPH	Livingston, NJ
Kara Wegermann, MD	Durham, NC
Julius Wilder, MD, PhD	Durham, NC
Adam Winters, MD	Los Angeles, CA
Jennifer White	Goddard, LA
Nathan Whitehead	Cedar Lake, IN
Maureen Whitsett, MD	Brooklyn, NY
Carrie Wong, MD	Los Angeles, CA