



December 7, 2020

Dear State Public Health Official:

The American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT), Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (SDMS) and Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging (SNMMI) are the national professional associations representing nearly 600,000 medical imaging and radiation therapy professionals. Our associations' members include radiographers, radiation therapists, nuclear medicine technologists, magnetic resonance technologists and sonographers, the majority of whom are employed in hospitals or outpatient clinics and provide direct patient care. Radiologic technologists, nuclear medicine technologists and sonographers have played an important role in the care and management of COVID-19 patients by performing a multitude of imaging exams. A few examples include chest x-rays on patients with suspected or confirmed coronavirus, post-intubation images on patients on ventilators and sonography procedures on COVID patients with blood clots and vascular complications. Medical imaging professionals may also travel to patients' homes and to long-term care facilities to image those individuals who need care but may not be able to travel to a health care facility, while radiation therapists have continued to care for cancer patients throughout this pandemic

The Centers for Disease Control Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) met on December 1 to make their recommendation that health care personnel who provide direct patient care in inpatient or outpatient settings be the first to receive the COVID-19 vaccination when it becomes available. We are reaching out to all state public health officials to ensure that all radiologic technologists, radiation therapists, nuclear medicine technologists and sonographers are included in your state's COVID vaccination plan as members of the ACIP's Phase 1a health care personnel. If medical imaging and radiation therapy personnel are not protected from COVID by receiving the vaccination as soon as it is available, patients may go without needed examinations and treatments.

Americans count on our country's health care personnel to care for them, now health care personnel look to you to help protect them from COVID-19. We are here to answer any questions you may have about radiologic technologists, radiation therapists, nuclear medicine technologists or sonographers. Please direct your inquiries to ASRT Deputy Executive Director Greg Morrison (gmorrison@asrt.org), ASRT Vice President of Government Relations Christine Lung (cjlung@asrt.org), SNMMI Senior Director & SNMMI-TS Administrator Nikki Wenzel-Lamb (nwenzel@snmmi.org), or SDMS Chief Executive Officer Donald Kerns (dkerns@sdms.org). We look forward to working with you to help protect our nation's health care workers from COVID-19.

Sincerely,

Michael Odgren, B.S., R.P.A., R.R.A., R.T.(R)(CT)
ASRT President

Ted Whitten, B.A., RDMS, RVT, SDMS
SDMS President

Alan B. Packard, Ph.D.
SNMMI President

Tina M. Buehner, Ph.D., CNMT, FSNMMI-TS
SNMMI Technologist Section President