



IMIA COVID-19 Task Force © Charter

Justification

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has created an unprecedented worldwide disruption on the livelihood of millions of individuals. The International Medical Interpreters Association (IMIA) has been monitoring the pandemic very closely since it was announced and has collected information on how it is affecting our core constituents. Interpreters have been exposed to new occupational hazards, have lost their jobs, and they are seeking IMIA for leadership during this emergency.

In addition, IMIA has received information from the field that people with limited English proficiency (LEP) are not receiving culturally and linguistically appropriate services during the pandemic. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act requires non-discrimination based on national origin. In this case no person shall be discriminated based on the language they speak.

Goal

The COVID-19 Task Force© is charged to develop policies and guidelines to safeguard medical interpreters' professional, financial, emotional, and occupational safety. In addition, IMIA will assist in the communication needs of LEP, Deaf, Hard of Hearing communities, and people with functional needs with official information from the Center for Disease Control on how to protect themselves and others and will research professional occupational hazards.

Objectives

- The IMIA COVID-19 Task Force© guides IMIA to prioritize services to our constituents and partners during the pandemic and during the recovery phase of the emergency.
- Creates educational opportunities, webinar trainings, and professional development.
- Conducts research on the areas of occupational hazard, and language access services.
- Creates guidance and community outreach strategies to our LEP communities, Deaf, and Hard of Hearing, and for people with functional needs communities by providing communication resources in multiple languages, and any other culturally and linguistically appropriate services and assistance.
- Identify resources derived from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, such as unemployment benefits, loans, business assistance, etc.

IMIA – 33 Bedford Street, Suite 9 - Lexington, MA USA 02420

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- Explores the creation of the “Coronavirus Emergency Relief Fund for Interpreters”.

Deliverables

- Creates a best practice occupational safety guideline
- Creates a frequently asked questions document
- Identifies training for professional development
- Identifies external sources of funding and applies for grants
- Creates short YouTube videos in multiple languages
- Creates a HUB for information and resources for interpreters, LEPs, Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and people with functional needs
- Creates a community outreach plan for COVID-19 related information
- Creates an advocacy and medical interpreter’s representation plan
- Produces and publishes scientific research for evidence-based policy development
- Others TBD

Sub-committees

Professional Development,

Occupational Safety,

Language Access and Interpreters Occupational Research,

Community Outreach, and

The interpreters’ emergency financial assistance program.

Membership

1. David Cardona, MD, MPH- Chair



INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL
INTERPRETERS ASSOCIATION
Leading the advancement of professional interpreters

2. John Burke, Fire Chief, City of Sandwich, Massachusetts - Co-Chair
 3. Ronit Zusman, JD, Civil Rights Attorney
 4. Xiomara Armas, National Board of Certification of Medical Interpreters
 6. Nicholas Kern, IMIA President-Elect
 7. Juana Horton, IMIA Past President
 9. Dennis Caffrey, IMIA Board Member
 10. Lizette Guadalupe Ödfalk, Video Remote Lead Certified Medical Interpreter.
 11. Pano Yeracaris, MD, MPH, Chief clinical strategist of the Care Transformation Collaborative-Rhode Island.
 12. Alexander R. Green, MD, Assistant Professor, Harvard University
 13. Support staff: Carolyn Campos, Administrator, Maria Baker, Outreach Coordinator.
- The subject matter expert list will be adjusted according to Task Force needs.

Authority

1. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act
2. Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act
3. The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act)

Charter approved by David Cardona, MD, MPH, CMI-Spanish, President on behalf of the IMIA board of directors.

J. David Cardona.

Date approved: **April 22, 2020. Approved by Task Force Members.**

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External Point of Contact: Maria Baker, Outreach Coordinator (Outreach@imiaweb.org)

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