

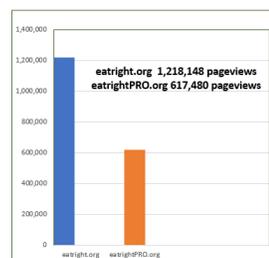
On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the coronavirus disease, more commonly known as COVID-19, a pandemic due to the number of individuals and countries affected. As a result, many changes in our daily lives are being recommended in order to minimize the spread of virus. As the impact of COVID-19 continues to unfold, the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics is gathering resources for consumers and nutrition and dietetics practitioners to address preparedness, patient care and food safety and access.

The following is a summary of Academy initiatives and activities related to COVID-19.

- A strength of the Academy is our robust telecommuting program, which we immediately leveraged in planning next steps. On Monday, March 16, the Academy’s headquarters office transitioned seamlessly to a work remote environment, including staff who have not telecommuted in the past.
- On Friday, March 20, Illinois Governor JB Pritzker issued a statewide “stay at home” order. The Academy will continue to follow the procedures issued by local, state, and federal government agencies and have extended remote working through Friday, May 29, 2020. All Academy team meetings immediately and seamlessly transitioned to the WebEx platform. Several online platforms were activated to ensure a productive digital work environment sharing documents, online software, chats, solutions and help us remain interactive.

- The Academy’s [Coronavirus Nutrition Resource Center for consumers](#) debuted on March 18 and includes nutrition articles, tips, video and activities for individuals and families managing the challenging conditions of the COVID-19 outbreak. Since its launch, the consumer resource center has garnered 136,824 pageviews and eatright.org has seen a total of 1,218,148 pageviews.

**Over 1.2 MILLION Pageviews**



- On March 24, we launched the [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Professional Resource Hub](#) on eatrightPRO.org for practitioners. The hub features an expanding list of resources and recommendations, [Q&A forum](#) and complimentary webinars. Since its debut, the professional resource hub has nearly 29,000 pageviews. The eatrightPRO.org homepage featuring Latest News has seen 94,000 pageviews and the eatrightPRO.org website has had 617,480 pageviews. Here are some hub highlights:

- ✓ We continue to reach out to members and ask them to [share](#) successes, concerns and challenges.



Stories are emerging of RDNs and NDTRs coming together to face the crisis. We will use member input to help inform the development of tools and benefits to help support Academy members during and after these uncertain times. Click [here](#) to read some touching and relatable Nutrition Heroes stories and experiences from registered dietitian nutritionists and dietetic interns.

- ✓ Academy members were provided free access to the new 2020 *Nutrition Care Manual* critical illness and disaster preparedness sections.

- ✓ In addition, the Academy offered a [Quick Guide for RDNs](#) who are network providers with payers and previously delivered face-to-face medical nutrition therapy to quickly onboard with telehealth services during COVID-19, as well resources for private practice RDNs. More than 14,000 users have visited the telehealth quick guide since we published it.

- ✓ The Academy developed [social media kits](#) in English and Spanish with shareable messaging and graphics regarding nutrition and food safety for families managing the challenging conditions of the COVID-19 outbreak. Infographics were also created.



- The Academy posted [78 online education programs](#) available as of March 25 as open-source modules to support the needs of nutrition and dietetics students, interns, preceptors and educators.
- In early April, we produced the [Front Line Webinar Series](#) and the online webinars were made available at no cost to members and non-members through the [generous support](#) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation. The Series includes:
  - *Nutrition Assessments During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Panel Discussion*
  - *Providing Nutrition Services via Telehealth During the COVID-19 Pandemic: What RDNs Need to Know*
  - *Nutrition Support and COVID-19: What Clinicians Need to Know*
  - *Enteral Nutrition During Prone Position in the COVID-19 Patient*
- To date, the first two recorded webinars have been viewed 42,197 times, including viewers from Australia, Philippines, Lebanon, Kuwait, Canada, Saudi Arabia, UK, Columbia, India, Turkey, Ireland.

- On April 19, we also translated the consumer resource center [into Spanish language](#) and most recently, launched an [Arabic version](#). We are grateful to Academy Spokespeople Sandra Sara Arevalo, MPH, RDN, CDN, CLC, CDE, FAND, and Rahaf Al Bochi, RDN, LDN, for their help in translating articles and resources. We have recognized their efforts in *Eat Right Weekly*, on social media and in presentations. We are currently working on Hindi translations with members of the Indians in Nutrition and Dietetics MIG. Having multilingual web content is a first for the Academy. All of these efforts complement our Diversity and Inclusivity initiatives.



- In April, CDR announced it will delay invoicing the registration maintenance fee until mid-July.
- Also in April, the Academy extended membership renewal through June 30, and implemented a two-installment payment option, with the first payment due June 30 and the second due by September 15. For individuals experiencing a financial hardship that threatens their ability to maintain Academy membership, an application for a Financial Hardship Dues Reduction is available by email [membership@eatright.org](mailto:membership@eatright.org).

- To better design policy and advocacy initiatives, education and training efforts the Academy issued a research study related to how the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting the way members deliver nutrition care in the hospital. The results of the survey will be published in the *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics*.
- On April 16, *The Bachelor's* Chris Harrison shared a [videoclip](#) showing his support and recognizing RDNs on the front lines of COVID-19.
 
 A screenshot of a social media post from Chris Harrison. The post features a video thumbnail of Chris Harrison speaking. The text of the post is partially visible and includes a message of support for Registered Dietitians (RDs) during the COVID-19 pandemic. The post has several likes and comments.
- The Academy Foundation announced on April 21 that they were extending the deadline for [scholarships](#). Students, interns and NDTRs now have until June 15 to apply. The Foundation is the world's largest provider of dietetic scholarships at all levels of study and the number and amount of scholarships awarded is determined by fundraising efforts and investment returns on scholarship funds.
- [CDR's](#) testing agency Pearson VUE identified nutrition and dietetics professionals as “essential medical personnel” and effective April 16, CDR examination candidates have access to test in Pearson VUE’s Professional Centers.
- On Wednesday, April 22, I participated in a CEO Roundtable to discuss how associations are shifting to entirely remote operations. For many groups, this meant hundreds of staff suddenly working from home for the first time, along with a host of logistical, communication and management challenges. But for the Academy, we were prepared.
- A communication was forwarded on April 28 from President - Terri J. Raymond, MA, RDN, CD, FAND, and President-Elect - Linda T. Farr, RDN, CSOWM, LD, FAND, updating members on the [current status of FNCE](#). We are paying close attention to the recommendations of health and government authorities. Ensuring members’ safety will be the primary consideration in determining whether an in-person FNCE® is feasible. We will continue to keep members up to date on any and all developments.
- The Academy’s Telecommuting Program has been running successfully and we continue to ensure the least amount of disruption to Academy operations. Supervisors regularly meet virtually with staff to ensure progress in all program of work. They are managing staff effectively and boosting morale, engagement, and performance. To create a more nimble, effective workplace for staff to thrive in today’s fluid environment, the Academy continues to explore additional innovative methods to accomplish our work on behalf of members and our mission well into the future.

*The coronavirus situation is dynamic to say the least; each day brings new developments and challenges. Protecting the health and safety of our staff and members is a high priority and continues to drive the organization’s ongoing efforts to address this unprecedented situation.*

**SUBMITTED BY:** Patricia M. Babjak