

Friday, March 27, 2020

3:18 AM

Dear MSHA Members,

Thank you for reaching out to the Michigan Speech-Language-Hearing Association (MSHA) on behalf of yourself, your colleagues, and your clients. These trying times have exposed flaws within the healthcare system that many of us are aware of, but have been fortunate to avoid in practice.

Earlier this morning, I awoke to a call from a colleague who informed me that SLPs in Detroit (and throughout Michigan) are working to screen people who may have COVID-19 prior to entering hospitals. This is outside of our scope of practice, but it speaks volumes about the individuals we're fortunate to call colleagues. I've heard that many of these clinicians have limited access to personal protective equipment (PPE), and are now being used to screen incoming patients and visitors. To the those of you currently serving on the frontlines of this crisis, I would like to let you know: we hear you, we see you, and we are more than thankful for your sacrifices.

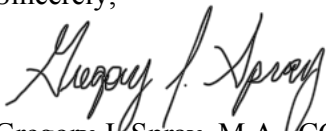
There are currently SLPs sacrificing their overall health to protect their patients and colleagues, all while portraying our profession in a positive light. Although COVID-19 has taken a toll on all of us, I know that we'll collectively band together to overcome this challenge. This virus is currently testing each of us to a point we have yet to completely endure. However, I'm certain that we, as speech-language pathologists, have the motivation, knowledge, skills, and training to overcome.

*Our stories may be singular, but our destination is shared.* Together, I am confident that we will overcome the current circumstances, while also advocating for clients and serving as a light throughout these dark times. As a speech-language pathologist, you've likely gone unrecognized. However, it is through your silent commitment to clients and their families that you save lives and continue to inspire. The women & men within our profession are unlike anyone I've met. I have complete faith and confidence in each of you.

This is a challenging time for Michigan, the nation and the world as we respond to novel coronavirus and the uncertainty surrounding it. We will do our best to stay on top of this quickly evolving situation and communicate with you regularly and fully as conditions change. We remain confident that we will navigate this difficult and uncertain period together.

Finally, I wanted to thank the Executive Board and Advisory Assembly, all of whom are volunteers on behalf of our profession while also working on other degrees, managing their own businesses, and striving to practice at the top of our licensure. Above all, I would like to thank our office employees, Kim and Jenny, who have worked around the clock to prepare for our conference that was postponed. They have also responded to hundreds of phone calls and emails (some of which were less than kind). At this time, Kim is working with the bank to refund each attendee's money in a timely manner while Jenny reschedules the entirety of our conference. The MSHA office has also created a [new webpage](#) where you can get the most up-to-date information. We look forward to serving the members of our association as best as possible during these difficult times.

Sincerely,



Gregory J. Spray, M.A. CCC-SLP  
President | Michigan Speech-Language-Hearing Association