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who use AAC and their families
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March 23, 2020

Dear USSAAC Colleagues:

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We are certainly living in interesting times, in uncharted territories. Many of our members are trying to “carry on” with the delivery of AAC services, via distance...while at the same time “home schooling” their own children. Parents are learning, or implementing, strategies to support their family member who is an AAC user, to take advantage of time together. Manufacturers and app developers are stepping up and offering free training and free or discounted AAC tools. AAC users are ready to support each other, as well. This is our community at its best.

USSAAC has supported the www.patientprovidercommunication.org team that developed additional resources specifically to address the communication needs of individuals with COVID-19 who need breathing tubes or ventilator support. Included in the bank of free resources are:

- Downloadable health care communication boards to support patients of different ages, abilities, and languages (e.g., English and bilingual)
- Embedded in each tool are instructions for health care providers and other communication partners to support the presentation of the boards, even if the patient has difficulty pointing or seeing.
- Additional considerations to support patient-provider communication for patients on invasive or non-invasive ventilation
- Additional resources to COVID-19 related material, training videos, and organizations providing FREE or discounted tools

Please feel free to share USSAAC’s Facebook post in this regard, or through other social media or personal contacts with healthcare providers and other stakeholders.

Let’s be sure to stay close emotionally, even while we distance physically. Feel free to reach out to me, or any of our USSAAC board members (listed at <https://ussaac.org/about-us/board-of-directors/>) with questions or concerns that we may be able to assist you with.

Stay calm, stay home, stay safe.

Best,

Yoosun Chung, President