



## **COVID-19 and Updates:**

As we all know our nation and state has been hit with the COVID-19 virus. At this time no one really knows when our lives will return to a normal routine, but we need to remember in the days and weeks ahead of us to be patient and take one day at a time.

The MIPA staff has been busy today speaking with the major and regional wholesalers to determine if we will see any problems with the prescription drug supply. The next 30-45 days is what we would consider short term, and everything looks good with supply and delivery. Due to the fact that so many prescription drugs are manufactured in China and India it is hard to say what the status will be for the long term. The wholesalers are witnessing some customers purchasing more than usual and if this continues, they will stop this practice. The MIPA staff will stay in close contact with the drug wholesale representatives in the near future.

MIPA Executive Director Robert H. Dozier has been in contact with Governor Reeves to address the possibilities of expanding the pharmacist abilities to help with this epidemic. The fact that pharmacists are the most accessible healthcare provider in the state was stressed and well received by Governor Reeves. Mr. Dozier has also been in constant contact with MS Board of Pharmacy Executive Director Susan McCoy on the issues that are facing our state. Mrs. McCoy is working very closely with the Board of Medical Licensure and the Board of Nursing. Mrs. McCoy and Mr. Dozier are making sure pharmacy has a seat at the table when the decisions are made in helping fight this virus.

The MIPA staff has been in communication with Dr. Thomas Dobbs with the Board of Health and we will continue to stay in close contact with our state's leaders.

At this time, we are still focusing our efforts on passage of House Bill 708. We do not know what the legislature will do for the long term, but we will stay vigilant in our lobbying efforts concerning House Bill 708.

We will continue to update everyone by fax, email, and Facebook. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call day or night.