

# IFPA Update

March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020

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The IFPA Update is an internal news bulletin with operations focus for IFPA members, Board, staff and functionaries only, prepared by the IFPA Secretariat to complement the IFPA Quarterly newsletters (which provide more general IFPA news and are available to our partners and the general public). Each IFPA Update will focus on providing useful practical information, timelines, and awareness of current status and what's to expect within IFPA during the year. The IFPA Update is circulated on an "as needed" basis, at appropriate timelines, to be used as reference when planning, and may as such include updated versions of previously provided timelines and schedules.

For suggestions for future IFPA Update editions, welcome to e-mail our Communications Manager at [camille.lancelot@ifpa-pso.com](mailto:camille.lancelot@ifpa-pso.com).

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## Regarding COVID-19

The International Federation of Psoriasis Associations understands the global concern regarding the present Coronavirus situation, and we are monitoring developments closely using available information from the World Health Organisation (WHO) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC). This message is to reassure you and provide you with an update as it relates to IFPA, its members and our operations.

As of Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup> there are no exceptional directives for people living with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis, regardless of their medication. The best advice is still to wash your hands frequently, maintain clean surfaces, avoid touching eyes and mouth, and only cough or sneeze into a bent elbow or an immediately disposable tissue. We advise that you follow the general public health guidelines regarding the Coronavirus COVID-19 outbreak issued by your local health authorities, specifically the WHO, the CDC, and your national public health agency. IFPA will act on validated procedures for the safety of all our functionaries and members.

Considering the health and safety of our functionaries, members, and their family, friends and associates, and recognizing the potential risk of transmission during key events or the operational risk of a longer quarantine during travel, the IFPA Board has decided to take precautionary measures and initiate a 60-day international travel suspension for IFPA functionaries (IFPA Board and Secretariat, with impact for members during IFPA events also).



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This suspension went into effect March 6<sup>th</sup>. This means in practice that the following IFPA event participations or organized events will unfortunately need to be cancelled:

- **The Pan American Regional Members Meeting set to take place April 4-5 in Ottawa**
- IFPA's participation at AAD in Denver, March 20-24
- IFPA's participation at a LEO Pharma meeting on stigma, April
- IFPA's participation at the Associations World Conference, April 15-17

For more information regarding cancellation, reimbursements, and guidelines for future events, please continue reading below.

## Pan American Member Meeting

Due to the Board's decision, the Pan American Regional Member Meeting will no longer be possible to arrange in Ottawa, Canada on April 4 & 5, and the event will need to be reconsidered for later this year. More information will follow going forward. If you planned on attending, please contact us to discuss reimbursements.

We ask those members who have booked flight tickets or made other arrangements to cancel these at the earliest.

We aim to cover cancellation costs for all our members. In those cases where cancellation is not possible, we will work together to find solutions for causing minimum impact to your organisation. If you have made travel arrangements already, please contact [finance@ifpa-pso.com](mailto:finance@ifpa-pso.com) at the earliest for more information.

## European Member Meeting

To curtail the impact of future potential travel disturbances, we kindly ask our European Members to **delay purchasing tickets** to attend the European IFPA Member Meeting. We will inform you when we can be assured that the event will take place as planned, depending on developments going forward, even if this is currently outside the window of travel restriction. Until then, please **do not make purchases or any travel arrangements**, but rather await further information from IFPA.

For those members who are proactive and have already purchased their tickets, do not worry. Should it come to pass that this meeting must also be cancelled, we will also provide a solution to recoup your travel costs. If you have questions, welcome to contact [finance@ifpa-pso.com](mailto:finance@ifpa-pso.com).



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# What should we tell our members about Coronavirus?

The situation is different for every context. IFPA highly encourages our members to refer to your local health authorities, including your local World Health Organisation and Centers for Disease Control branches, for the most relevant information. Some key advice you may want to pass on to your members includes:

- If you have specific questions, for example regarding your medications, contact your dermatologist or rheumatologist by telephone.
- If you develop symptoms of COVID-19 (as outlined by the WHO at <https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/q-a-coronaviruses>), contact your healthcare provider by telephone.
- To minimize your risk of catching and spreading the virus, observe the offered by the WHO and the CDC:  
<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public>

While we will make every effort to keep our information up to date as the situation with COVID-19 progresses, we would always recommend following the guidance on the your local health authorities' websites first and foremost, as this will be the most up to date, and therefore the most accurate.



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