



## Official Statement of the Society of Critical Care Medicine

### Misinformation about COVID-19 Prevention and Treatment

The Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM) supports measures that decrease the spread of COVID-19 and reduce the risk of severe forms of the disease that may lead to critical illness. Also, SCCM opposes the spread of misinformation about COVID-19 prevention and treatment. The SCCM Standards of Professional Conduct apply to all SCCM members and obligates them to serve patients, families, and the public both ethically and honestly to achieve the best possible health outcomes.

The [NIH COVID-19 Treatment Guidelines](#), whose authors include SCCM representatives, advocates following COVID-19 vaccination recommendations according to the [U.S. Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices](#). SCCM strongly encourages vaccination for all eligible persons as the best way to prevent COVID-19 as well as further perpetuation of the pandemic and the potential for severe forms of the disease that lead to critical illness.

The [NIH COVID-19 Treatment Guidelines](#) state that there is insufficient evidence to recommend for or against the use of ivermectin, and the [Infectious Diseases Society of America \(IDSA\) COVID-19 Guidelines](#) recommend against the use of ivermectin outside of a clinical trial. Both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) state that ivermectin is not authorized or approved for the prevention or treatment of COVID-19. SCCM supports the [statement](#) from the American Medical Association (AMA), American Pharmacists Association (APhA), and American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) calling for an immediate end to the prescribing, dispensing, and use of ivermectin for the prevention and treatment of COVID-19 outside of a clinical trial.

Critical care professionals are highly trained, respected, and essential in caring for patients who are severely ill. Accordingly, our healthcare colleagues and the public rely on our expertise and professionalism. SCCM supports the [Federation of State Medical Boards' statement](#) that spreading COVID-19 misinformation contradicts professional responsibility and puts patients at risk. SCCM recognizes the right to express legitimate differences of opinion and equally recognizes the critical distinction between scientifically sound debate and making public statements or providing healthcare guidance that is contrary to prevailing medical evidence. Spreading misinformation contradicts the ethical and professional responsibilities of SCCM members, erodes public trust in our profession, and may violate the SCCM Standards of Professional Conduct.