



Dear Community Leader:

The American Nephrology Nurses Association (ANNA) would like to thank you for your hard work and diligence to create a safe environment for your community members during this unprecedented time. ANNA members are nurses who specialize in working with patients with kidney (nephrology) related issues.

This letter is to introduce you to an educational flyer titled “COVID-19 and Your Kidney Health.” This flyer was created to educate the community that COVID-19 can affect multiple body organs, including the kidneys. The kidneys may suddenly lose their ability to work properly, and this loss of kidney function – also known as acute kidney injury (AKI) – can become so severe that a medical procedure called dialysis may be required to help the person recover.

A study done in an inner-city hospital system in an underserved area found that almost half (49.3%) of the individuals with COVID-19 also had AKI. The majority (72%) were found to already have AKI when they arrived at the hospital (Pelayo et al., 2020). This means the damage to their kidneys began while they were still at home!

Increasing public awareness regarding the connection between COVID-19 and kidney health, as well as the risks and symptoms of AKI, may help protect our community members from experiencing – or at least minimize – AKI, especially for individuals at high risk who experience health disparities and/or reside in underserved communities.

We hope you will consider sharing this important information with your community members.

Download the flyer at [www.annanurse.org/covidflyer](http://www.annanurse.org/covidflyer).

Sincerely,

Lillian A. Pryor, MSN, RN, CNN  
ANNA 2020-21 President