

On behalf of our 195 member organisations, the International League of Dermatological Societies (ILDS) welcomes the opportunity to share a statement on improving skin health for all people around the world amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

We commend the WHO's leadership over the past year. Since the outbreak, the ILDS has been supporting WHO's public health activities with our global networks and will continue to do so.

However, we now call for more recognition of the impact COVID-19 on skin health. The dermatologic needs and the support required by patients with skin conditions during the pandemic have become clear¹.

- In order to rapidly and centrally collect and share dermatological information, we have collaborated in the development and promotion of the use of four dermatology registries*. These have helped health professionals around the world have a better understanding of the consequences of COVID-19 for patients and their management by collecting data from over 3,000 healthcare providers in 52 countries, identifying "covid toe" as well as other skin manifestations of COVID-19.
- We have also published multiple guidance notes on COVID-19 and the management of skin diseases during this time in line with broader WHO guidance.

Additionally, an increased development of occupational irritant skin disease in healthcare workers and the global population due to necessary handwashing and alcoholic disinfection, protective goggles, and face masks has been noted, at times an increase of 97%². Clear guidance, preventive and therapeutic measures are also required in this area.

The ILDS will continue to assist WHO member states and their health professionals in coping with skin disease and the treatment thereof in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and calls on the WHO to further recognise skin health needs during this difficult time.

References

1. Freeman EE, McMahon DE, Lipoff JB, et al. The spectrum of COVID-19-associated dermatologic manifestations: An international registry of 716 patients from 31 countries. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 2020;83(4):1118-1129. doi:10.1016/j.jaad.2020.06.1016
2. Elston DM, Carolina S. LETTER FROM THE EDITOR Occupational skin disease among health care workers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) epidemic. doi:10.1016/j.jaad.2020.03.012

* [International Dermatology COVID-19 Registry](#), [SECURE-Alopecia Registry](#), [SECURE- Atopic Dermatitis](#), and [PsoPROTECT](#)