

SITREP

MHA

MONTANA
HOSPITAL
ASSOCIATION

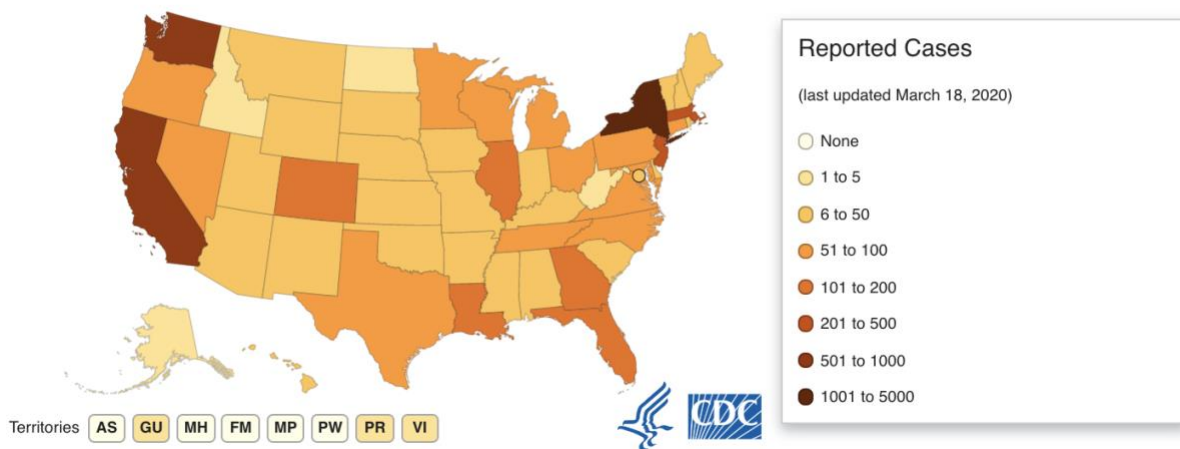
Montana Hospital Association - Situation Report

March 18, 2020

COVID-19

REPORTED CASES	
Montana <i>New in last 24 hours: 1 (Reported at 9:23 p.m.)</i>	12
United States <i>New in last 24 hours: +2,812 (+67%)</i>	7,038
WA	1,187
ID	11
WY	18
ND	7
SD	11

States Reporting Cases of COVID-19 to CDC*



Senate passes emergency funding bill. The Senate today passed the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (H.R. 6201). The House of Representatives March 16 passed by unanimous consent a revised version of the bill that made technical corrections to the legislation that the House originally approved March 14. Among other provisions, the legislation would eliminate patient cost-sharing for COVID-19 testing and related services; establish an emergency paid leave program; expand unemployment and nutrition assistance; establish a mechanism for covering testing costs for the uninsured; and provide a temporary increase in the Medicaid Federal Medical Assistance Percentage. The president is expected to sign the bill. Watch for a summary of the bill.

OPERATIONS

New data on U.S. hospitalizations for COVID-19. About 80% of deaths and 45% of hospitalizations for COVID-19 in the U.S. are among adults aged 65 or older, with the risk of serious illness and death increasing with age, according to a [report](#) released today by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The findings are similar to data from China, the agency said. While severe COVID-19 illness leading to hospitalization can occur at any age, children appear to have milder illness, with almost no hospitalizations for those under age 19, CDC said. According to the report, an estimated 21% to 31% of U.S. COVID-19 patients between Feb. 12 and March 16 were hospitalized, with 5% to 12% admitted to an intensive care unit. An estimated 1.8% to 3.4% of U.S. COVID-19 patients died over the period.

PLANNING

Resource Reporting to Juvare. Data will be used by the State in requesting emergency supplies and managing allocation. This process is expected to begin this week. Please complete all daily updates by 8:00AM each morning. For assistance, contact your [Healthcare Preparedness Program \(HPP\) region coordinator](#).

LOGISTICS

CDC Expands, Revises Guidance for Conserving and Optimizing PPE. [Expanded guidance for eye protection, isolation gowns and facemasks](#) in addition to N95 respirators. Provides options for extended use, reprocessing, and reuse of the various PPE components given current shortages of PPE being reported in many areas of the country.

CDC adds to COVID-19 FAQ for healthcare workers. CDC has updated its [COVID-19 FAQ page](#) for healthcare professionals, including links to relevant guidance and resources. Questions include answers about protection of pregnant and other healthcare workers, testing, treatments, waste management and virus spread.

President invokes Defense Production Act. President Trump today invoked the Defense Production Act to expand production of ventilators, masks and other emergency medical supplies. The DPA requires companies to accept and prioritize contracts from the government and to prioritize "materials, services, and facilities to promote the national defense."

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

OCR eases HIPAA telehealth enforcement for COVID-19 emergency. HHS' Office for Civil Rights will immediately exercise its enforcement discretion and waive potential penalties for HIPAA violations against healthcare providers that serve patients through everyday communications technologies during the COVID-19 nationwide public health emergency, the agency [announced](#) today. The discretion applies to widely available communications apps, such as FaceTime or Skype, when used in good faith for any telehealth treatment or diagnostic purpose, regardless of whether the telehealth service is directly related to COVID-19. For more on HIPAA and COVID-19, see [OCR's February Bulletin](#).

Waiver Webinars: March 23 “Telehealth Waiver Made Simple” and March 25 “COVID-19 Waivers: What Providers Can and Can’t Do.” MHA Platinum Underwriter and compliance partner PYA will host two complimentary webinars with Q & A sessions regarding Medicare COVID-19 waivers including new billing rules and regulatory relief. [Register early](#) as attendance is limited.

COMMUNICATIONS

Watch or Listen Now: [March 17 CDC COCA Call for Long-Term Care Facilities.](#)

State of Montana COVID-19 Hotline: 1-888-333-0461

Montanans can also email questions to covid19info@mt.gov. State public health officials will be responding to inquiries from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday.

MHA Incident Management Team: esf8@mtha.org

REFERENCE LINKS

GENERAL

Contact Information: [Local & Tribal County Health Departments](#)

[MHA COVID-19 Member Resources](#)

[State of Montana COVID-19 Information](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 Information](#)

[Healthcare Professionals Preparedness Checklist](#) (CDC)

[Hospital Preparedness Tool](#) (CDC)

EMS

[EMS Infectious Disease Playbook](#) (ASPR/TRACIE)

[Montana EMS Guidance](#) (DPHHS)

REGULATORY

[EMTALA Requirements and Implications Related to COVID-19](#) (CMS)

CLINICAL CARE

[March 13 | Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity \(COCA\) Call](#) (CDC)

[Guidelines for Collecting, Handling and Testing Clinical Specimens](#) (CDC)

[Clinical Guidance for Management of Patients with Confirmed COVID-19](#) (CDC)

[Criteria for Evaluation and Reporting of Persons Under Investigation](#) (CDC)

TELEHEALTH

[Medicare Telehealth FAQ](#)

INFECTION PREVENTION & CONTROL

[Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 in Healthcare Settings](#) (CDC)

[Additional Guidance for Infection Control and Prevention of COVID-19 in Home Health Agencies](#) (CMS)

[Additional Guidance for Infection Control and Prevention of COVID-19 in Dialysis Facilities](#) (CMS)

Rev. 3/13: [Additional Guidance for Infection Control and Prevention of COVID-19 in Nursing Homes](#) (CMS)

[Additional Guidance for Infection Control and Prevention of COVID-19 by Hospice Agencies](#) (CMS)

Rev. 3/18: [Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of PPE](#) (CDC)

[Extending the Use and/or Reusing Respiratory Protection During Disasters](#) (APIC)

[Temporary Enforcement Guidance – Healthcare Respiratory Protection](#) (OSHA)

WORKFORCE PROTECTION & SUPPORT

[Management of Healthcare Personnel with Potential Exposure to Patients with COVID-19](#) (CDC)

[Criteria for Return to Work for Healthcare Personnel](#) (CDC)

[Montana Hospital Mutual Aid System Memo & Agreement](#)

COMMUNITY MITIGATION STRATEGIES

[Mitigation Strategies for Communities with Local COVID-19 Transmission](#) (CDC)

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