March 19, 2020

COVID-19

REPORTED CASES	
Montana ***New in last 24 hours: 3***	**15**
United States ***New in last 24 hours: +3,404 (+48%)***	**10,442**
WA	**1,376**
ID	**23**
WY	**18**
ND	**19**
SD	**14**

States Reporting Cases of COVID-19 to CDC[*]

Reported Cases

(last updated March 19, 2020)

- ○ None
- 1 to 5
- 6 to 50
- 51 to 100
- 101 to 200
- 201 to 500
- 501 to 1000
- 1001 to 5000

Territories AS GU MH FM MP PW PR VI
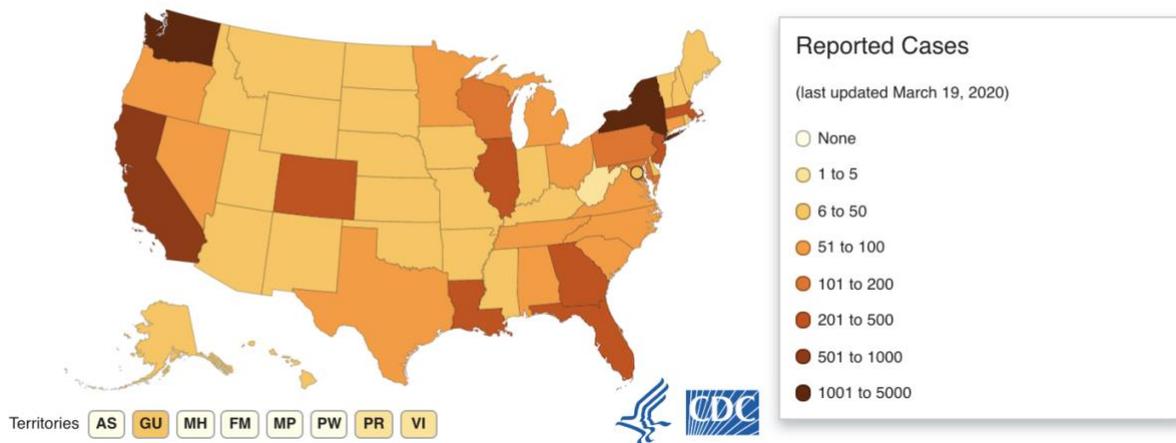
President Trump last night signed the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (H.R. 6201). The legislation eliminates patient cost-sharing for COVID-19 testing and related services, establishes an emergency paid leave program, and expands unemployment and nutrition assistance. Moreover, the bill provides a temporary increase in the Medicaid Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP), and creates two mechanisms for coverage of testing for the uninsured — one through the Medicaid program and another through the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund.

Congress urged to allocate $100 billion to providers in next COVID-19 spending package. The AHA, American Medical Association and American Nurses Association today urged congressional leaders to provide $100 billion to front line health care personnel and providers and "direct the federal agencies to begin to infuse funds immediately so that they can afford to take the necessary steps to fight" the novel coronavirus outbreak (COVID-19).

OPERATIONS

SAMHSA issues guidance on informed consent during COVID-19. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is providing this guidance to ensure that substance use disorder treatment services are uninterrupted during this public health emergency.

Behavioral health resources for organizations and public. National Council for Behavioral Health is providing resources for behavioral health organizations (including facilities providing opioid treatment) as well as resources on how to support children and other family members who may be suffering elevated anxiety related to the outbreak.

PLANNING

Resource Reporting to Juvare (EMResource). Continue to report bed availability and PPE item inventory. 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

COVID-19 test kit supply update. MHA GPO partner Intalere posted a March 18 update on test kits and supply disruptions. There is no cost to access these resources via HRS/Intalere under the Montana Hospital Association's agreement.

Contact Sean Becker, VP of Shared Services, at sean.becker@mtha.org or 406-457-8019.

Strategies for Optimizing PPE. The CDC's updated series of strategies for optimizing PPE supplies includes distinct guidance for conventional, contingency and crisis supply levels with regard to eye protection, isolation gowns, facemasks and N-95 respirators. Examples: When no facemasks are available, possibilities include reusing or producing homemade versions of masks (for example, bandanas or scarfs), which would ideally be used in combination with a face shield that covers the entire front and side of the face. CDC states that in the absence of gowns, the following are preferable: disposable laboratory coats, reusable (washable) patient gowns, reusable (washable) laboratory coats, disposable aprons or a combination of clothing to protect from exposure to body fluids.

Testing process infographic. DPHHS provided this graphic to illustrate the testing process to state lawmakers during an interim legislative committee meeting held today.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Montana Medicaid releases Telemedicine/Telehealth Services Policy. In its March 19 All Provider Memo, Montana Medicaid permits qualified providers to deliver clinically appropriate, medically necessary Montana Medicaid covered services to Montana Medicaid members via reimbursable telemedicine/telehealth services (including telephone and live video) for the duration of Montana's declared state of emergency.

New COVID-19 cyber resources available. The AHA has released a compendium of resources for hospitals and health systems related to cybersecurity threats during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, John Riggi, AHA's senior advisor for cyber and risk, today published a blog offering four ways that healthcare providers and organizations can mitigate cyber risks during the pandemic.

Key Legal Issues Facing Healthcare Employers. In a pandemic like COVID-19, hospitals and healthcare providers face a unique situation as both employers and care providers. This post from national health law firm Hall Render outlines specific issues and considerations including safe workplace, ADA, FMLA, NRLA and others.

New Diagnosis Code for Coronavirus. The CDC announced that its new ICD-10-CM diagnosis code U07.1, COVID-19, will be effective on April 1, 2020, instead of Oct. 1, 2020. This off-cycle update is an exception to the code updating process established under HIPAA.

Moody's: Hospital financial outlook negative as coronavirus constrains cash flow. Moody's Investors Service today revised its outlook for the U.S. nonprofit hospital and health care sector from stable to negative, saying revenue will likely decline as hospitals cancel elective surgeries and other services to prepare for a surge of coronavirus cases. "At the same time, expenses will rise with higher staffing costs and the need for supplies such as personal protective equipment," the credit rating agency said. "...Ripple and lingering effects to the economy will also drive lower cash flow even after the outbreak is contained. These include a reduction in the value of hospitals' investment portfolios and potential rising unemployment or widespread layoffs that result in the loss of health benefits. The difficulties facing hospitals come amid increasing cash flow constraints, such as a greater reliance on reimbursement from governmental programs and a continued shift in treatment to less costly settings."

COMMUNICATIONS

Listen Now: March 18 Healthcare Community Call with Gov. Bullock and State Officials.

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)

Rev. 3/17: [COVID-19 FAQs for Healthcare Providers](#) (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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