March 23, 2020

COVID-19

REPORTED CASES	
Montana ***New in last 24 hours: 11***	**45**
United States ***New in last 24 hours: +10,625 (+32%)*** **Source: CSSE Global Outbreak Dashboard**	**43,901**
WA	**2,221**
ID	**50**
WY	**28**
ND	**32**
SD	**28**
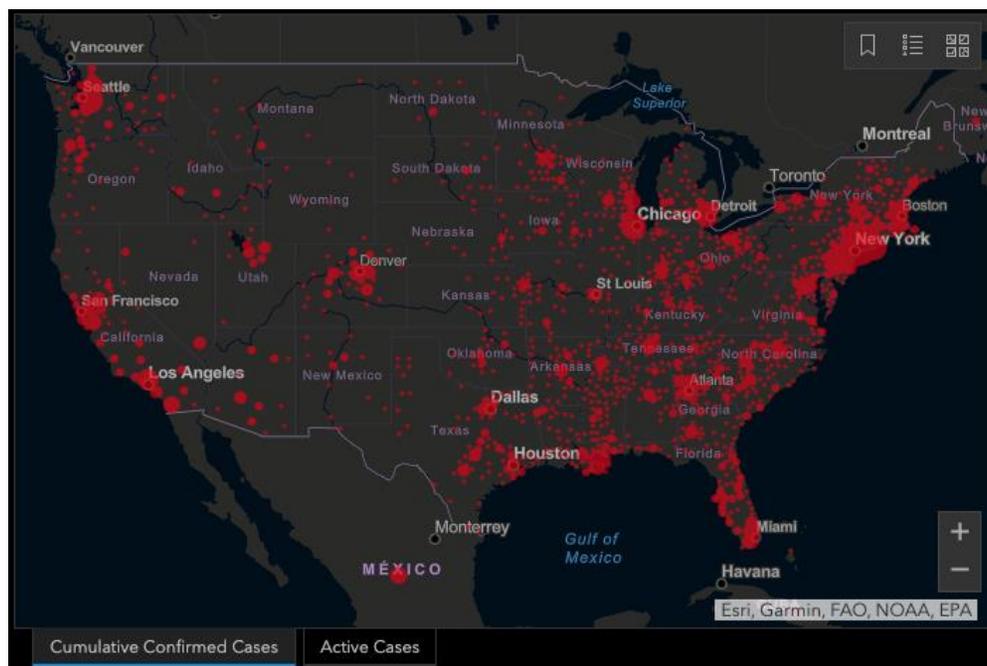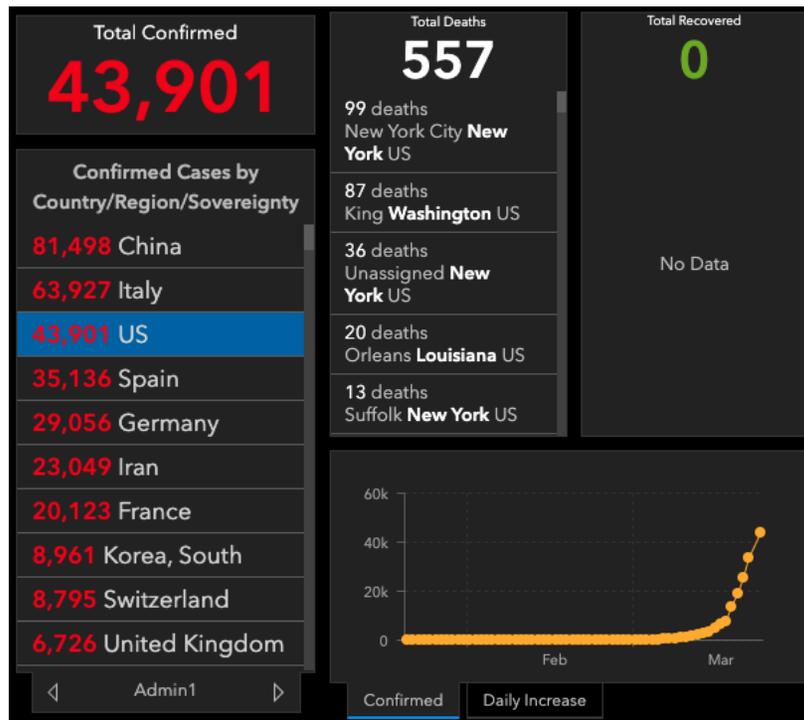
MHA has been in dialogue with the Governor and our U.S. Senators on the importance of equipment and funding to support the hospitals during this period. Currently the bill under consideration in the Senate does not do enough for hospitals. The bill is short by $25B to meet current needs. Democrats refuse to agree on the points of hospital funding, extended unemployment benefits and no assurances on how large corporations will spend the relief funds.

Meanwhile last week, MHA shared with Sen. Tester some additional concepts for rural hospitals, both CAH and rural designated PPS facilities. Sen. Tester asked MHA for additional items for consideration that could enhance any package proposed by the Senate. These concepts have been added to a bill in the Senate that has been co-sponsored by Sens. Tester and Daines. Highlights of the bill, the Immediate Relief for Rural Facilities and Providers Act sponsored by Sens. Barrasso and Bennet, are here.

As we move forward, we need to plan on this event taking up much of the spring and possibly summer. Heed the directives of social distancing in every aspect of your daily lives. Today, the number of states with "shelter in place" directives has risen to 12 and more are considering this move as a means to flatten the virus' impact and prevent overwhelming healthcare capabilities.

OPERATIONS
FDA authorizes first point-of-care diagnostic test for COVID-19. The FDA Saturday issued the first emergency use authorization for a point-of-care COVID-

19 diagnostic, which the maker plans to make available to qualified healthcare providers and CLIA-certified labs by March 30. "Point-of-care testing means that results are delivered to patients in the patient care settings, like hospitals, urgent care centers and emergency rooms, instead of samples being sent to a laboratory," said FDA Commissioner Stephen Hahn, M.D. "With today's authorization, there is now an option for testing at the point of care, which enables patient access to more immediate results." For information, see the provider fact sheet.

CMS announces survey priorities, shares infection prevention checklist. CMS announced it will prioritize and conduct only certain surveys during the COVID-19 national emergency's three-week enforcement discretion period, starting March 20. These include surveys related to complaints and facility-reported incidents that are triaged at the immediate jeopardy level, and targeted infection control surveys of providers identified in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response. The infection control surveys will use a streamlined review checklist. The checklists are included in the memo for voluntary self-assessment of providers' infection control plans and protections.

FDA releases guidance to mitigate ventilator supply disruptions. In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Food and Drug Administration yesterday released updated guidance to provide flexibility and expand the availability of ventilators and other respiratory devices to treat patients during the public health emergency. In addition, FDA released a letter to supplement the updated guidance that provides recommendations directed at providers.

New CDC guidance on underlying medical conditions. CDC has published a new COVID-19 and Underlying Medical Conditions page for health providers and new FAQs on higher risk persons & underlying conditions.

Updated guidance for retirement communities. CDC updated its guidance for Retirement Communities and Independent Living. This included updates to Preventing the Spread of COVID-19 in Retirement Communities and Independent Living Facilities and the COVID-19 Checklist: Older Persons.

PLANNING

FEMA releases updated COVID-19 advisory. The Federal Emergency Management Agency today released a COVID-19 pandemic advisory describing in general terms what actions it is taking, how community-based testing sites will be managed, and information about the Defense Production Act.

Resource Reporting to Juvare (EMResource). Continue to report bed availability and PPE item inventory. Please complete all daily updates by <u>8:00AM</u> each morning. For assistance, contact your [Healthcare Preparedness Program (HPP) region coordinator.](#)

LOGISTICS

Request PPE donation from Harbor Freight. Harbor Freight is donating its entire supply of N95 masks, face shields and 5 and 7 mil nitrile gloves to hospitals with 24-hour emergency rooms in the communities served by their stores. Procurement leaders need to submit information to the company [here.](#)

PPE from state emergency stockpile shipped today. This is the first phase of emergency stockpile PPE to be distributed. Shipments will arrive by ground freight by Wednesday.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

New COVID-19 MS-DRG assignment. CMS today issued a corrected announcement regarding the Medicare Severity-Diagnosis Related Group Grouper to recognize the new ICD-10-CM diagnosis code, U07.1, for COVID-19. The initial MS-DRG assignment posted March 20 would have resulted in significant reimbursement reductions for hospitals. The ICD-10 MS-DRG Grouper assigns each case into an MS-DRG based on the reported diagnosis and procedure codes and demographic information (age, sex and discharge status). The ICD-10 MS-DRG Grouper software package to accommodate this new code, Version 37.1 R1, is effective for discharges on or after April 1, 2020.

Federal and state resources for reporting price gouging available. The Department of Justice has established a website, hotline and email for [reporting price gouging and fraud](#). The National Center for Disaster Fraud is coordinating the effort and will triage complaints to the appropriate federal and/or state authorities.

CFOs: Survey on COVID-19 financial impacts. The Montana Facility Finance Authority and Montana Hospital Association are gathering information on the expected financial impact of both COVID-19 and the economic challenges facing facilities across the state. MHA distributed a short, 5-minute survey to member CFOs on March 20. As state and federal officials are moving quickly to address this issue, responses are requested by March 24. [Complete the survey here](#).

COMMUNICATIONS

FCC exempts COVID-19 communications from prohibition on automated calls, text messages. The Federal Communications Commission March 20 issued a [ruling](#) confirming that the COVID-19 pandemic qualifies as an "emergency" under the Telephone Consumer Protection Act. Under this exception, hospitals, healthcare providers, state and local health officials and other government officials may make automated calls and send automated text messages to wireless telephone numbers to communicate information about COVID-19, as well as mitigation measures without violating federal law. The TCPA, enacted in 1992 and subsequently updated by the FCC, is intended to restrict telemarketing calls and the use of automatic telephone dialing systems or prerecorded voice messages.

Watch Now: Today's ["Telehealth Waiver Made Simple"](#) webinar from PYA.

SITREP Archive. Daily Situation Reports archived [here](#).

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)

[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 (CMS)](#)

[Montana Medicaid Coverage & Reimbursement Policy for Telehealth Services](#) (DPHHS)

[Telehealth Toolkit for General Practitioners](#) (CMS)

[Telehealth Toolkit for Providers of End-Stage Renal Disease Patients](#) (CMS)

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)

[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)

PPE

[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)

[PPE Supply Equivalents & Price Guide](#) (AHRMM)

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)

UPDATED: [Tips to Keep Children Healthy While School's Out](#) (CDC)

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