

# SITREP



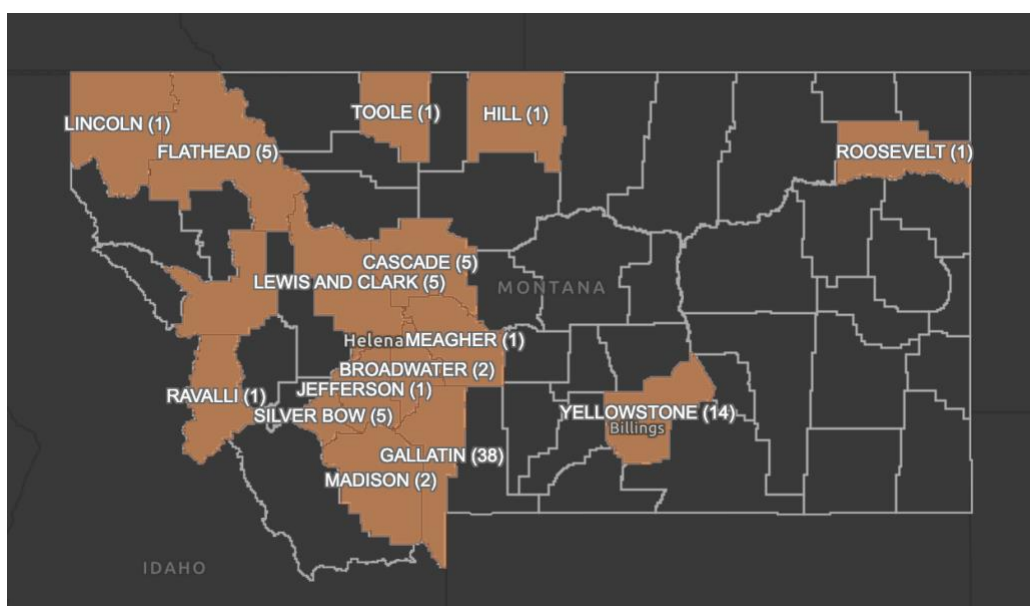
MONTANA  
HOSPITAL  
ASSOCIATION

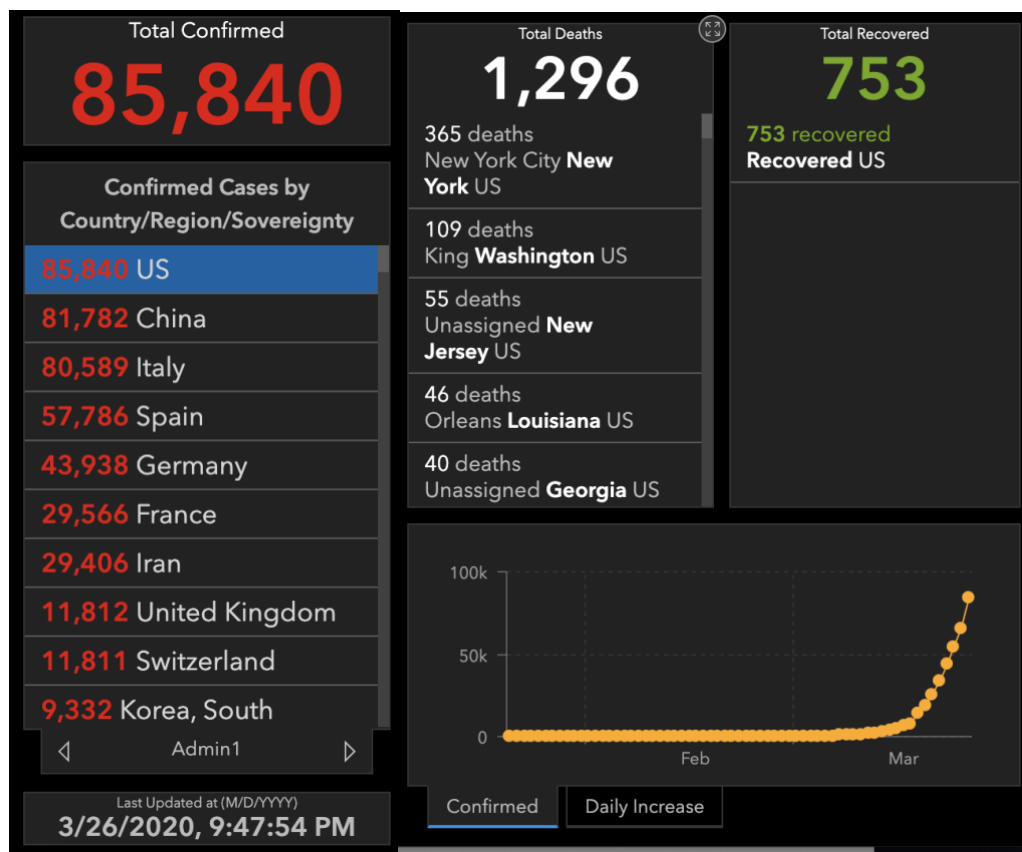
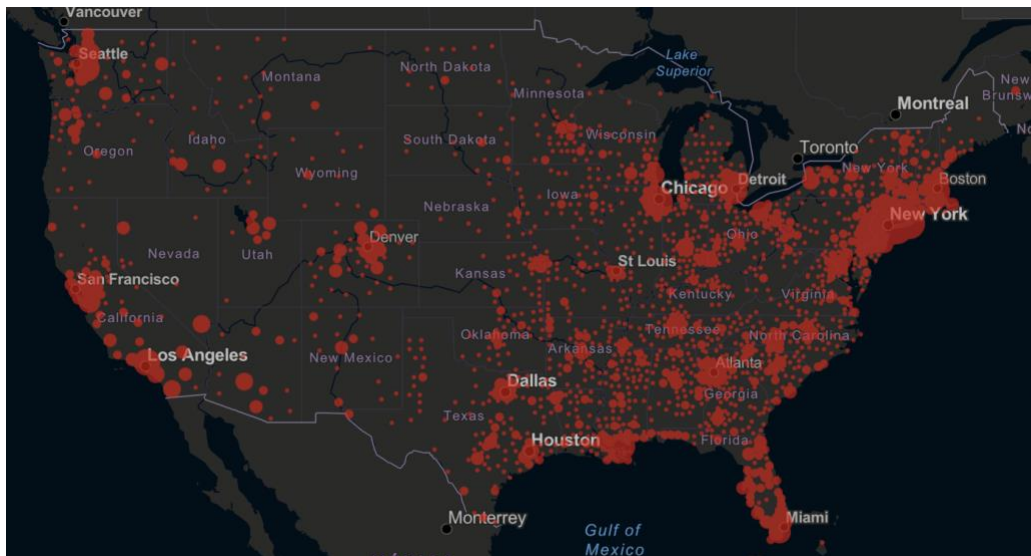
Montana Hospital Association - Situation Report

March 26, 2020

## COVID-19

| REPORTED CASES   |               |
|--|---------------|
| <b>Montana</b><br><i>Hospitalized: 7</i><br><i>New in last 24 hours: 25</i>                                  | <b>90</b>     |
| <b>United States</b><br><i>New in last 24 hours: 16,732 (+24%)</i><br>Source: CSSE Global Outbreak Dashboard | <b>85,840</b> |
| <b>WA</b>  | <b>3,207</b>  |
| <b>ID</b>  | <b>189</b>    |
| <b>WY</b>  | <b>56</b>     |
| <b>ND</b>  | <b>58</b>     |
| <b>SD</b>  | <b>46</b>     |





**Senate passes coronavirus relief legislation.** The Senate late last night 96-0 passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (H.R. 748). The bill is the third large-scale congressional effort in response to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. The House is expected to pass the legislation on Friday.

**Key Takeaways:**

- Increases funding to the Public Health Services and Social Emergency Fund by almost \$127 billion to, among other things, reimburse hospitals for COVID-19 expenses;

- Creates a Medicare add-on payment of 20% for both rural and urban inpatient hospital COVID-19 patients;
- Removes the Medicare sequester from May through December 2020;
- Expands the existing option for hospitals to receive “accelerated” Medicare payments, including by ensuring critical access hospitals can access this option;
- Eliminates \$8 billion in total Medicaid DSH cuts over FY 2020 (eliminates \$4 billion cut) and FY 2021 (reduces cut to \$4 billion from \$8 billion);
- Provides flexibility to post-acute care providers, including waiving long-term care hospital (LTCH) site-neutral policy;
- Takes steps to improve the supply chain, including access to masks and drugs, among other items;
- Takes steps to expand coverage for COVID-19 testing and testing-related services; and
- Provides new telehealth flexibilities, including expanding access in rural areas.

## OPERATIONS

**Gov. Bullock issues stay at home directive.** Announced late today, the [directive](#) orders residents to stay at home and all non-essential services and businesses to cease operations. It defines essential businesses and operations and specifies prohibited activities, prohibited and permitted travel, and essential activities still allowed (while observing a distance of 6 feet from others). MHA [urged](#) a statewide shelter in place earlier in the day, after hospitals together [endorsed cancellation of elective procedures](#) to protect patients, staff and conserve critical supplies.

**CDC updates COVID-19 testing and preparedness guidelines.** Updated yesterday, CDC’s COVID-19 [testing priority guidance](#) gives first priority to testing hospitalized patients and symptomatic healthcare workers. The agency also updated its [interim guidelines for collecting, handling and testing COVID-19 clinical specimens](#) to allow for self- or healthcare worker-collected nasal or nasal turbinate swabs if nasopharyngeal swab is not possible. In addition, CDC updated its [checklists and resources](#) for hospital and healthcare professionals preparing for patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. Check CDC resources frequently for the latest CDC guidance on the COVID-19 emergency.

**New guidance on transferring hospital patients.** [Discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions of Patients with COVID-19 in Healthcare Settings](#) (Interim Guidance) is aimed toward hospitals but also provides information about discharge to home. It clarifies that patients with COVID-19 can be discharged from

a hospital whenever clinically indicated. It also covers discharges to a long-term care or assisted living facility.

## PLANNING

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

## LOGISTICS

**Non-traditional suppliers offering PPE and other critical supplies.** AHRMM is collaborating with GHX using the same tools, expertise and processes leveraged by its Vendormate solutions to vet non-traditional suppliers offering PPE supplies. See list of [vetted non-traditional suppliers](#).

**PPE, other COVID-19 resources subject to HHS hoarding restrictions.** The Department of Health and Human Services yesterday designated certain health and medical resources needed to respond to the spread of COVID-19 subject to hoarding restrictions under the Defense Production Act and a March 23 executive order. The designation includes N95 and certain other respirators, ventilators, personal protective equipment, drug products, medical device sterilization services and disinfecting devices.

## FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

**COVID-19 Coding, Billing & Telehealth Tip Sheet.** MHA Ventures-endorsed vendor Navigant/Guidehouse has prepared a [COVID-19 coding tip sheet](#) in response to questions about accounting and potential reimbursement.

## COMMUNICATIONS

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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)

**NEW:** [PHI Guidance for COVID-19 First Responders](#) (OCR/HHS)

## CLINICAL CARE

[March 24 Memo to Montana Healthcare Providers on COVID-19 Testing](#) (DPHHS)

[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)

[COVID-19 and Underlying Medical Conditions](#) (CDC)

FAQs: [Higher Risk Persons](#) & [Underlying Conditions](#) (CDC)

## RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES

[Guidance for Retirement Communities and Independent Living](#) (CDC)

[Preventing the Spread of COVID-19 in Retirement Communities and Independent Living Facilities](#) (CDC)

[COVID-19 Checklist: Older Persons](#) (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 \(CMS\)](#)

Watch: [“COVID-19 Telehealth Waiver Made Simple” \(PYA\)](#)

## **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 \(AHRMM\)](#)

**NEW:** [Conserving Facemasks and Respirators During a Critical Shortage \(TJC\)](#)

**NEW:** [PPE Burn Rate Calculator \(CDC\)](#)

## **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](#)

[COVID-19 Safety Training Resources \(NIH\)](#)

**NEW:** [COVID-19 and the American Workplace Toolkit \(US Dept. of Labor\)](#)

**NEW:** [Memo on Registration for Out-of-State Licensees \(MT DLI\)](#)

## COMMUNITY MITIGATION STRATEGIES

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

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

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