

SITREP



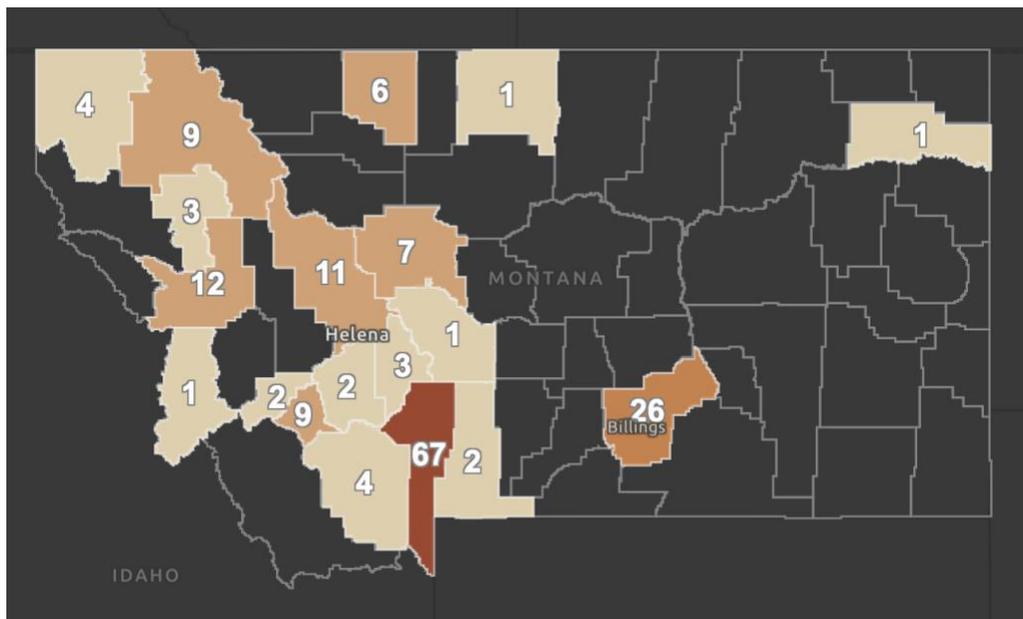
MONTANA
HOSPITAL
ASSOCIATION

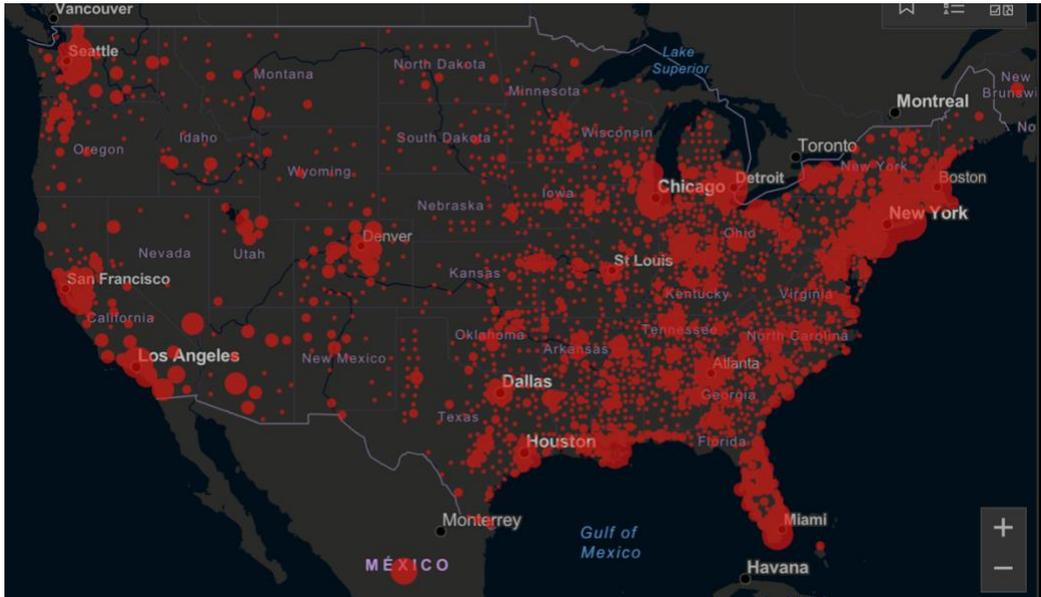
Montana Hospital Association - Situation Report

March 30, 2020

COVID-19

REPORTED CASES	
Montana <i>Hospitalized: 10</i> <i>Deaths: 4</i> <i>New in last 24 hours: 10 (+6%)</i> Source: Montana COVID-19 Dashboard	171
United States <i>New in last 24 hours: 21,772 (+15%)</i> Source: Johns Hopkins CSSE Global Outbreak Dashboard	164,274
WA *Current as of 3/28/20	4,896*
ID	415
WY	95
ND	109
SD	101





Following the passage of the CARES Act Friday, the federal government begins its work to implement the new law. Meanwhile, lawmakers are already gearing up for the fourth COVID-19 response package. With Congress in recess, the timing and substance for the fourth COVID-19 relief package is unclear. However, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) stated the chamber would convene “if circumstances require the Senate to return for a vote sooner than April 20.”

Democratic leaders of the healthcare committees have been vocal about what they want to see in the next package. In a joint statement, Senate Finance Ranking Member Ron Wyden (D-OR), Senate HELP Ranking Member Patty Murray (D-WA), House Ways and Means Chairman Richard E. Neal (D-MA), House Energy and Commerce Chairman Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ), and House Education and Labor Chairman Bobby Scott (D-VA) called for measures to: (1) eliminate out-of-pocket costs for all medical care associated with COVID-19, including treatment; (2) increase healthcare tax credits and expand eligibility for such premium assistance; (3) open a special enrollment period for the Affordable Care Act's exchanges; and (4) increase the Federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) (i.e., the federal share of costs) to incentivize non-expansion states to expand Medicaid.

In addition, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) called for additional funding to hospitals, states, and localities; healthcare worker protections; more funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); and additional flexibility to family and medical leave. House Democrats' Take Responsibility for Workers and Families Act (H.R. 6379), which includes many of these proposals, will likely serve as a blueprint for the package.

OPERATIONS

FDA authorizes emergency use of rapid response COVID-19 test. The Food and Drug Administration Friday [authorized emergency use](#) of the ID NOW Instrument in patient care settings to quickly test for COVID-19 through direct nasal or throat swab testing. According to the manufacturer, Abbott, the test may detect positive results in five minutes and negative results in 13 minutes. More information on the [healthcare provider factsheet](#) and [patient factsheet](#).

Lessons learned from EvergreenHealth. EvergreenHealth hospitalists offer critical [early lessons learned](#) from their experience managing many of the first COVID-19+ patients hospitalized in the U.S. The document includes consolidated information on what to anticipate and how to prepare for the arrival of COVID-19+ patients, recommendations on maximizing safety in the hospital environment, and key clinical management considerations which incorporate clinical expertise generously shared by colleagues across the globe. Their experience was also featured in a [recent article](#) in *The Hospitalist*.

Gov. Bullock directs 14-day quarantine for arriving travelers. The [directive](#) issued today applies both to Montana residents and non-residents entering the state for non-work-related purposes. It requires a self-quarantine for 14 days, or the duration of a non-work trip to Montana—whichever is shorter. The directive also instructs the Montana Department of Commerce to advise vacation listing and rental sites that they must notify potential out-of-state renters about the

quarantine requirement. MHA advocated for such a directive over the weekend, which includes enforcement provisions. Healthcare workers are excluded from the directive.

White House extends social distancing guidelines through April. President Trump yesterday said the guidelines for containing the spread of COVID-19, including social distancing, will extend through April 30. Modeling by the nation's health care experts has shown "that the mitigation measures we are putting in place may significantly reduce the number of new infections and, ultimately, the number of fatalities," Trump said.

HHS quickens pace of Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine candidate. HHS today [said](#) it will speed the development and manufacturing of vaccines to prevent COVID-19, starting with a candidate from Johnson & Johnson subsidiary Janssen Research & Development. The agency's Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority will support non-clinical studies and a Phase 1 clinical trial of Janssen's COVID-19 investigational vaccine, Ad26 SARS-CoV-2. The Phase 1 clinical trial is set to begin no later than fall of 2020 with the goal of making a COVID-19 vaccine available for emergency use in the United States in early 2021.

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

Emergency PPE requests. All requests for emergency PPE and other resources must be submitted to the local county LEPC or Disaster and Emergency Services/Emergency Management coordinator.

FDA issues new and expanded EUAs for PPE. The Food and Drug Administration this weekend expanded and updated guidance on the emergency use authorization for personal protective equipment, including:

- [Imported, Non-NIOSH-Approved Disposable Filtering Facepiece Respirators](#)
- [NIOSH-Approved Air Purifying Respirators for Use in Healthcare Settings During Response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#)
- [Battelle Decontamination System](#)
- [Enforcement Policy for Gowns, Other Apparel, and Gloves](#)

General EUA information, including fact sheets for providers and patients, is [available here](#).

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

CMS provides additional details on quality reporting and value program relief.

CMS this weekend provided additional details on the implementation of reporting exceptions and extensions across its quality reporting and value programs first announced on March 22. [Guidance Memo - Quality Reporting and Value-based Purchasing Programs](#) describes specific changes to CMS provider, hospital and post-acute care quality reporting programs. [Quality Payment Program COVID-19 Factsheet](#) outlines Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) extreme and uncontrollable circumstances policy and procedures for MIPS-eligible clinicians affected by COVID-19.

FCC announces \$200 million COVID-19 telehealth program.

Federal Communications Commission today issued a draft order that would create a program to help eligible healthcare providers [purchase telecommunications, broadband and devices](#) to provide telehealth services to COVID-19 patients and others at higher risk for the virus while reducing practitioners' exposure. Money for the proposed program came from the recently passed CARES Act.

CARES Act: Beyond the \$100B hospital relief package.

While the CARES Act includes a number of new payment mechanisms for healthcare providers, several provisions relevant to hospitals and health systems as businesses and employers may provide additional sources of needed revenue. These include:

Small Business Administration (SBA) Loans via the "Paycheck Protection Program."

This new loan opportunity is targeted to both for-profit and nonprofit organizations with fewer than 500 total employees and is intended to help businesses maintain their workforce through the economic downturn. Hospitals that meet all of the eligibility criteria (described in the Special Bulletin) are eligible to participate and may access funds to pay salaries and benefits, among other uses. Under certain circumstances, these loans (or a portion of them) may be forgiven. The AHA estimates that approximately 700 hospitals may be eligible for a total of \$7 billion.

Payroll Tax Delay. Employers may delay payment of the employer share of the Social Security portion of the Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) between the date of enactment and Dec. 31, 2020. This payroll tax delay essentially functions as an interest-free loan for nine months, which would need to be repaid over the next two years. Nearly all hospitals and health systems would be eligible for these delayed payments unless they had received and had forgiven a small business loan under the Paycheck Protection Program. We estimate that this

provision could reduce hospital and health system expenditures by a total of \$15 billion in 2020.

Other Business Loans through the Federal Reserve. The legislation authorizes \$500 billion in business loans using the Federal Reserve's emergency lending authority. While these loans may be available to a wide range of businesses, the legislation directs the Treasury "to endeavor to implement" loan programs specifically targeted for nonprofit organizations and businesses between 500 and 10,000 employees, subject to additional loan criteria and obligations on the recipient. Given uncertainty around eligibility and potential uptake among hospitals and health systems, the AHA has not estimated the financial resources that may be available to the field through this mechanism.

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. 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)

[MHA Consensus Statement on the Cancellation of Elective Procedures](#)

EMS

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

[Montana EMS Guidance](#) (DPHHS)

REGULATORY

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

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

CLINICAL CARE

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

[Evaluating and Testing Persons for COVID-19](#)(CDC)

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

NEW: [March 26 Diagnostic Testing Update re: Swabs](#) (FDA)

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

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

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

[Discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions of Patients with COVID-19](#)
(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)

NEW: [Telehealth Toolkit for Long-Term Care Nursing Home Facilities](#) (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)

[Conserving Facemasks and Respirators During a Critical Shortage](#) (TJC)

[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)

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

[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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