



OPERATIONS

Study finds presymptomatic COVID-19 transmission likely. Some COVID-19 patients in Singapore likely transmitted the virus to others on the island before they were symptomatic, according to a [report](#) released today by the CDC. The authors identified seven clusters of cases in which presymptomatic transmission

likely occurred. Other studies also have suggested such transmission can occur. "The potential for presymptomatic transmission underscores the importance of social distancing, including the avoidance of congregate settings, to reduce COVID-19 spread," the authors said.

DEA urged to increase annual caps for controlled substances. The AHA, American Medical Association, American Society of Anesthesiologists, American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, and Association for Clinical Oncology are [urging](#) the Drug Enforcement Agency to allow drug manufacturers and 503B outsourcing facilities to receive increased annual production quota controlled-substance allocations during the COVID-19 crisis. Doing so, the organizations say in a letter to the DEA, will allow them to meet "legitimate, and absolutely critical, patient care needs" caused by huge spikes in demand for morphine, hydromorphone, fentanyl and other opioids because of the number of patients requiring ventilation.

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.

CDC issues guidance on decontaminating filtering facepiece respirators. The CDC's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) today [issued guidance](#) on decontaminating disposable filtering facepiece respirators (FFRs) for reuse during times of contingency and crisis capacity. CDC does not recommend that FFRs be decontaminated and then reused as standard care but rather as an option that may need to be considered when FFR shortages exist.

FEMA implements ventilator request process. Given the scarcity of the ventilators in the Strategic National Stockpile and the current capacity of the private sector to meet the demand, FEMA has adopted a new process to manage federal ventilator resources to ensure the ventilators are shipped to the states in the amount needed to manage the immediate crisis. For ventilators, FEMA defines "immediate" as requirements necessary to sustain life within a 72-hour window. FEMA asked states and tribes to request ventilators from the SNS through their [FEMA](#) and Health and Human Services regional leadership.

According to FEMA, the federal government currently has 10,469 ventilators available.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Tax filing extension for 501(c)(3) organizations requested. The AHA, Association of American Medical Colleges and Catholic Health Association of the United States yesterday requested that the Internal Revenue Service provide a six-month automatic extension for filing Forms 990, 990-T, and 4720 to any Section 501(c)(3) organization that is required to file Form 990, Schedule H. In addition, the organizations asked that the IRS not impose any penalties if hospitals required to file Schedule H are delayed up to one year in completing a community health needs assessment or implementation plan.

CDC posts COVID-19 ICD-10-CM code. The [official guidelines](#) for the new ICD-10-CM code go into effect today through Sept. 30 and have been posted by the CDC. These codes will help capture and report surveillance data for the virus.

DOL Releases FAQs on FFCRA Employer Provisions. The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) modified the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and created a new paid sick leave policy to assist workers who contract novel coronavirus (COVID-19), are caring for family members with COVID-19, or face other extenuating family circumstances, such as a lack of child care due to school closures. However, the legislation allows for exemptions for healthcare providers and emergency responders. The Department of Labor (DOL) March 28 released a set of [frequently asked questions](#), which included information on how it would define "healthcare provider" and "emergency responder" in addition to guidance on prior leave entitlement, how to calculate rate of pay, how to count workforce size and hours worked, utilization of multiemployer collective bargaining agreement and more.

COMMUNICATIONS

New COVID-19 Resource Library. MHA has posted a [library](#) of helpful resources and sample material from other hospitals, healthcare organizations and states in their response to COVID-19. Categories include clinical care, testing, PPE, infection control, patient transfers and more. Content will be updated and expanded on a regular basis. Email content suggestions to esf8@mtha.org.

HHS sets email address for hospital-specific COVID-19 questions. Hospitals and health systems are encouraged to direct COVID-19 questions to a new Department of Health and Human Services email, starting today. The new email address serves as a one-stop resource to triage a wide range of COVID-19 inquiries from hospitals across HHS's offices and operating divisions, including the

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Food and Drug Administration, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and Office of Assistant Secretary for Health. **HHS says hospitals can send their COVID-19 questions to HospitalCOVID19@hhs.gov.**

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)

NEW: [Summary of COVID-19 Emergency Declaration Waivers and Flexibilities](#) (CMS)

NEW: [Provider-specific Fact Sheets on Waivers and Flexibilities](#) (CMS)

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)
[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)
[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)

[PPE Emergency Use Authorizations](#) (FDA)

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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