

SITREP



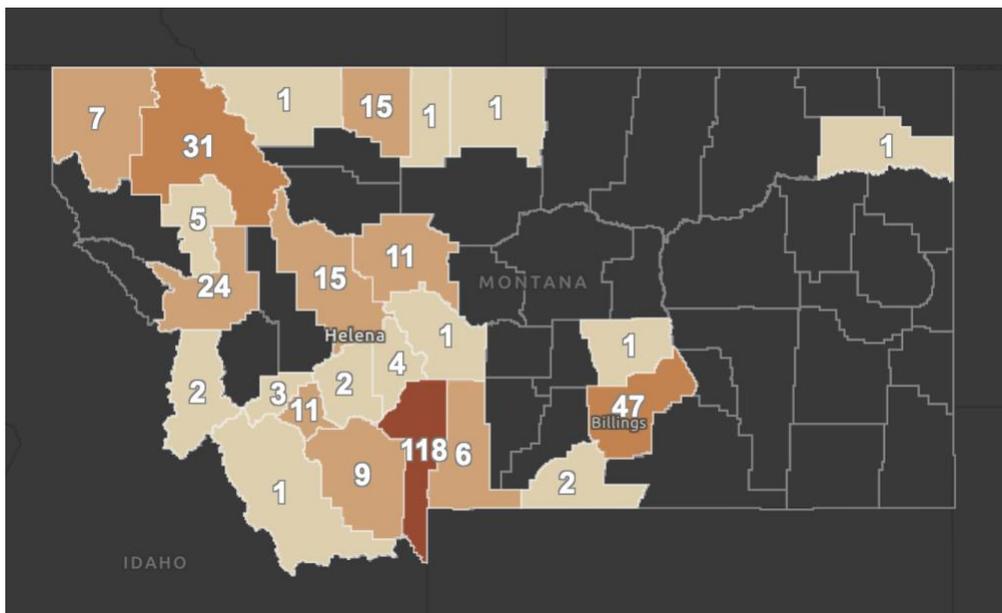
MONTANA
HOSPITAL
ASSOCIATION

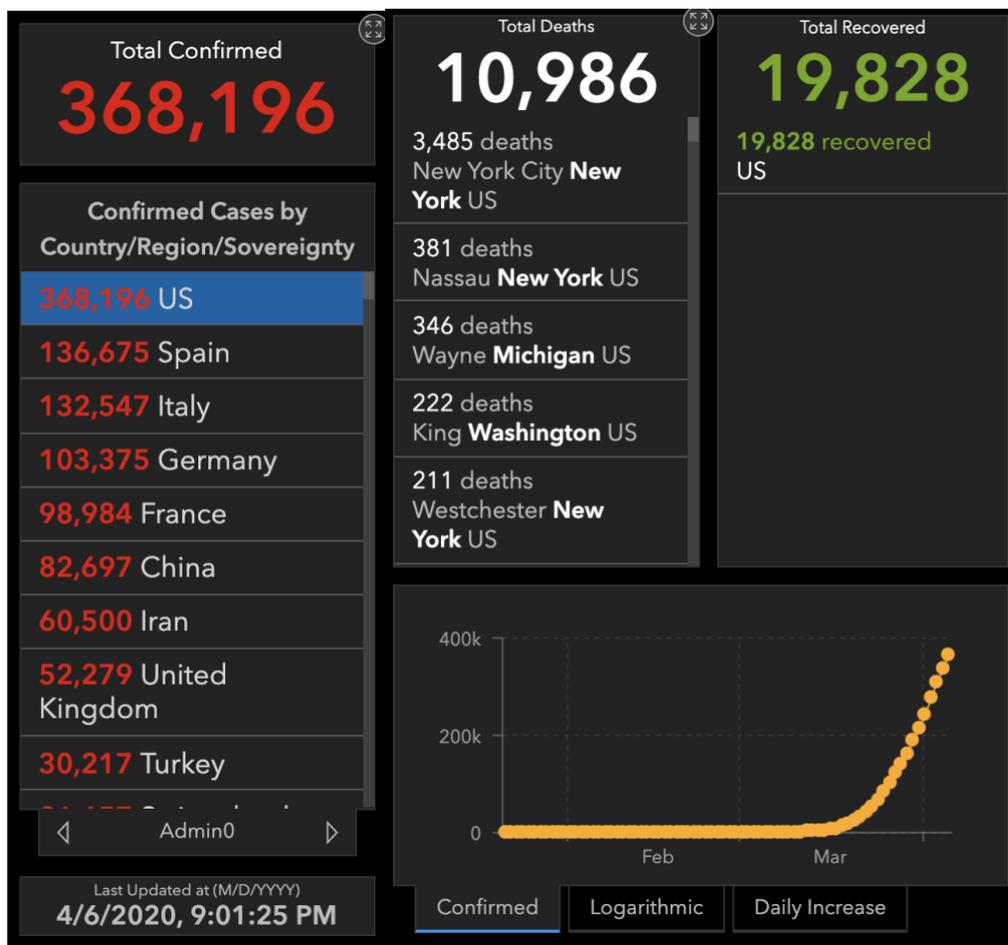
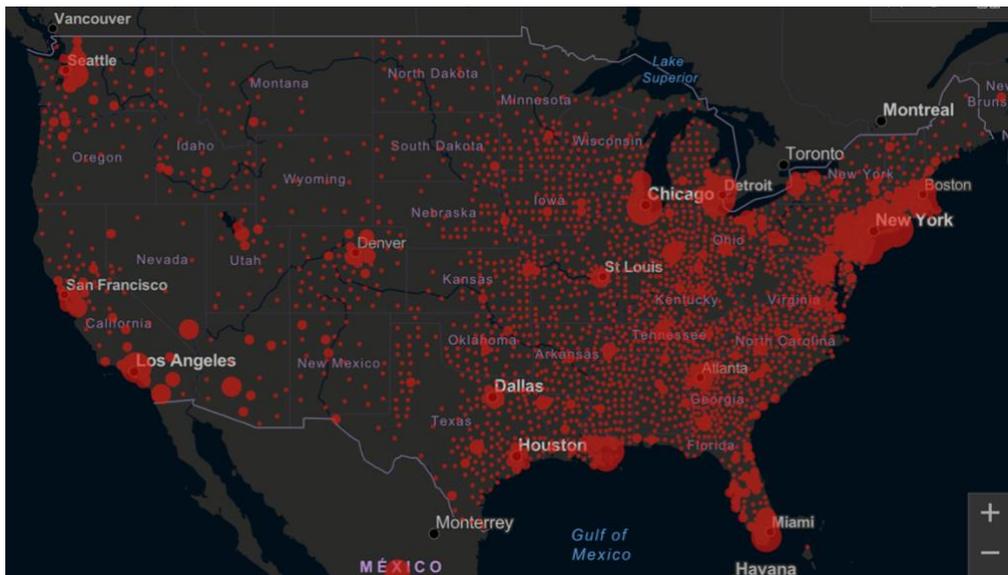
Montana Hospital Association - Situation Report

April 6, 2020

COVID-19

REPORTED CASES	
Montana <i>Hospitalized: 27 (+3)</i> <i>Deaths: 6 (+0)</i> <i>New in last 24 hours: 21 (+7%)</i> Source: Montana COVID-19 Dashboard	319
United States <i>New in last 24 hours: 30,576 (+9%)</i> Source: Johns Hopkins CSSE Global Outbreak Dashboard	368,196
WA	8,384
ID	1,170
WY	212
ND	225
SD	288





OPERATIONS

HHS purchasing rapid point-of-care test for public health labs. HHS [announced](#) it is purchasing ID NOW COVID-19 rapid point-of-care tests for state, territorial, and tribal public health labs. This test allows for medical diagnostic testing at the time and place of patient care and provides COVID-19 results in under 13 minutes. The test also will expand the capacity for coronavirus testing for healthcare

professionals and the first responder community. Additionally, HHS [announced](#) today \$186 million in supplemental funding for states and territories to support COVID-19 testing and surveillance.

CMS Telehealth FAQ video. CMS released a [video](#) answering common questions about the recent Medicare telehealth expansions.

FDA clarifies respirator enforcement guidance, sets conditions for allowing some Chinese-made KN95s during COVID-19 outbreak. The FDA clarified recent revisions to its face mask and respirator enforcement guidance, stating in a FAQ that the agency will allow the use of respirators approved under standards used in other countries for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On March 24, FDA issued an Emergency Use Authorization for importing non-NIOSH-approved N95 respirators. Under this EUA, among other criteria, FDA accepts marketing authorization from Australia, Brazil, Europe, Japan, Korea and Mexico, each of which have similar standards to National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. The FDA did not list in this EUA the KN95 respirator model made per China's standards, out of concerns about fraudulent products listed as KN95s. On April 3, 2020, in response to continued respirator shortages, the FDA issued a new EUA for non-NIOSH-approved N95 respirators made in China. This EUA makes KN95 respirators eligible for authorization if certain criteria are met, including evidence demonstrating that the respirator is authentic.

CDC revises strategies for optimizing N95 respirators. Updated CDC guidance revises its conventional, contingency and crisis-capacity strategies for [optimizing the supply of N95 respirators](#).

CDC issues guidance on using cloth face coverings in community settings. The CDC Friday [recommended](#) wearing cloth face coverings to prevent COVID-19 transmission in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain, citing recent studies showing that some people may spread the virus before or without showing symptoms. The agency emphasized that the recommended coverings "are not surgical masks or N95 respirators. Those are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and other medical first responders." The CDC also issued a [cloth face covering Q&A](#) on April 4.

FDA leads effort to develop blood-related COVID-19 therapies. The Food and Drug Administration [said](#) it is coordinating a national effort to facilitate the development of, and access to, two investigational blood-related therapies for COVID-19. By bringing together the public and private sectors with support from

federal stakeholders, FDA said it can speed the evaluation of convalescent plasma and hyperimmune globulin therapies that have the potential to lessen the severity or shorten the length of COVID-19 illness.

FDA issues infusion pump guidance. The Food and Drug Administration released an [enforcement policy](#) for infusion pumps and accessories during the COVID-19 emergency. FDA said the guidance helps "expand the availability and remote capabilities" of the devices.

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

*****Submit PPE needs to DES coordinator in order to ensure allocation.** The State of Montana has 1,000,000 N95/KN95 masks on order. In order to receive an allocation, healthcare organizations MUST [submit needs to their local DES coordinator](#) ASAP. Allocation is ongoing and supplies are limited.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Key issues for hospitals-as-employers under COVID-19 legislation, labor laws. Recently enacted federal legislation and its implementation by federal has raised a number of employer-related questions for hospitals and health systems. The AHA engaged the law firm Jones Day to provide a [summary of key issues](#).

USDA offers rural loan program payment deferrals, extends deadline for telemedicine grants. The USDA last week [announced](#) a number of actions to help rural residents, businesses and communities affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. These include certain [loan payment deferrals](#), and an additional [opportunity to apply](#) for the agency's Distance Learning and Telemedicine grant program, among other actions.

HHS: Fraudulent OCR investigator attempting to obtain PHI. An individual posing as an OCR investigator is attempting to obtain patients' protected health information, according to HHS. OCR is recommending that HIPAA-covered entities and business associates alert their workforce members and share steps to verify that someone is an OCR investigator, including asking for the individual's email address, which will end in @hhs.gov, and asking for a confirming email from the OCR investigator's hhs.gov email account. For additional questions or concerns, email OCRMail@hhs.gov.

OIG to hold off on anti-kickback sanctions for COVID-19 activities covered by CMS Blanket Waivers of Stark. HHS' Office of the Inspector General says it will seek to ensure healthcare providers retain regulatory flexibility during the COVID-19 crisis, [announcing](#) that it will "exercise its enforcement discretion not to impose administrative sanctions under the Federal anti-kickback statute" for many payments covered by the Blanket Waivers of the Stark self-referral law that CMS published last week. OIG's statement applies to 11 of the [waivers](#) issued by CMS, including compensation for services personally performed by a physician, incidental benefits or loans provided to a physician.

HHS report highlights hospitals' challenges amid pandemic. HHS' Office of Inspector General today issued a [new report](#) highlighting numerous challenges facing hospitals amid the COVID-19 crisis. The report shines a spotlight on issues related to lab tests, personal protective equipment shortages and surge capacity challenges.

CARES Act fund to reimburse providers for uninsured patients. The federal government will use a portion of the CARES Act's \$100 billion emergency fund for hospitals and healthcare providers to reimburse providers treating uninsured COVID-19 patients, President Trump and Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar [announced](#) Friday.

"Under the President's direction, we will use a portion of that funding to cover providers' costs of delivering COVID-19 care for the uninsured, sending the money to providers through the same mechanism used for testing," Azar said. "As a condition of receiving funds under this program, providers will be forbidden from balance billing the uninsured for the cost of their care. Providers will be reimbursed at Medicare rates. We will soon have more specifics on how the rest of the \$100 billion will go to providers."

COMMUNICATIONS

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.

HHS hospital-specific COVID-19 questions: 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: [County & Tribal Health Departments](#)

Contact Information: [County & Tribal DES Coordinators](#)

[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](#)

REVISED 4/6: [Summary of Funding Opportunities for Hospitals](#) (Compiled by MHA)

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)

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

[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)

[Caring with Limited Resources during the COVID-19 Crisis](#) (AHA)

[Optimizing Ventilator Use during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) (HHS)

yesterday [issued guidance](#) to state and local

LONG-TERM CARE & 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)

[COVID-19 Long-Term Care Facility Guidance](#) (CMS)

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)

[Informational Bulletin: Utilization of Telehealth for Treatment of SUDs](#) (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 \(CDC\)](#)

REVISED 4/3: [Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of N95 Respirators \(CDC\)](#)

[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 \(FDA\)](#)

[Decontamination and Reuse of Filtering Facepiece Respirators \(CDC\)](#)

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 \(MT DLI\)](#)

[FFCRA FMLA and Paid Leave FAQs \(US DOL\)](#)

NEW: [MHMAS Volunteer Registration System](#)

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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