



OPERATIONS

CDC updates infection prevention and control recommendations. Among specific changes in [the revised infection prevention and control guidance](#), CDC said healthcare facilities should consider requiring everyone entering the facility to wear a cloth face covering to address the risk of asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic transmission; screen everyone for fever and COVID-19 symptoms before they enter; and consider foregoing contact tracing for exposures and instead screen for fever and symptoms before each shift.

New guidance requires public posting of prices for COVID-19 testing services.

The [joint guidance](#), issued Saturday by HHS, Labor and Treasury departments in the form of FAQs, implements provisions from the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and the CARES Act. The guidance principally implements the requirement for health plans to cover both certain diagnostic testing and certain related items and services provided during a medical visit with no cost sharing. The guidance also notes that diagnostic testing providers, including both hospital and commercial laboratories, must post the cash prices for their COVID-19 testing services on a public website.

PLANNING

Resource reporting to Juvare (EMResource). Continue to report bed availability, ventilators and PPE 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. In order to receive an allocation of emergency PPE, healthcare organizations MUST [submit needs to their local DES coordinator](#). Allocation is ongoing and supplies are limited.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Federal reimbursement tracking services. MHA has engaged the [Tidal Basin Group](#) to assist the MHA membership in navigating the FEMA and other federal program tracking reimbursement process. Tidal Basin can serve as a fiscal agent for FEMA funding. They will charge an at-risk fee of 5% net revenue. For more information contact Kristopher J. Prickett at (706) 767-2340 or kprickett@tidalbasin.rphc.com.

- In order to remain eligible for financial support through FEMA, your organization must complete and submit the [Request for Public Assistance \(RPA\) Form](#) and the [Designation of Applicant Agent form](#) **by April 15th**. To understand what measures qualify for public assistance, review the [COVID-19 Eligible Emergency Protective Measures Fact Sheet](#).
- Contact Tim Thennis at tthennis@mt.gov or Sheri Medow at sheris@mt.gov with questions. If you have any difficulty with the forms, process or requirements, please notify MHA at esf8@mtha.org.
- Montana Disaster and Emergency Services, the FEMA agent for Montana, has verbally confirmed that the 5% consulting fee is acceptable and that Tidal Basin is an acceptable agent. However, DES requires hospitals to

follow their own procurement policies and does not allow noncompetitive procurement (“sole-source contracting” as outlined in this [memo](#)) for consulting services.

Updated: COVID-19 Funding Opportunities. MHA today released a revised [summary](#) of various sources to help financially support healthcare organizations through the public health emergency.

COMMUNICATIONS

COVID-19 Resource Library. MHA has built a [library](#) of helpful resources and sample material from other hospitals, healthcare organizations and states in their response to COVID-19. Additions today include:

- **PPE:** A new subfolder and materials for “Cleaning & Sterilization”
- **Clinical Care:** Discharge tool, sample DNR policy

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](#)

[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)

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 \(CMS\)](#)

Watch: [CMS Telehealth FAQ video \(CMS\)](#)

INFECTION PREVENTION & CONTROL

REVISED 4/14: [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 \(CDC\)](#)

[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)

[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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