





## OPERATIONS

CDC reports on healthcare worker COVID-19 cases. The CDC yesterday [reported](#) an estimated 9,282 confirmed COVID-19 cases in U.S. healthcare workers

between Feb. 12 and April 9, representing 19% of U.S. cases for which occupational status was available. Among cases reporting age, 38% had an underlying health condition, 8-10% were hospitalized and 0.3-0.6% died. The median age was 42 and 73% were female, likely reflecting the workforce distribution, CDC said. Among 121 healthcare workers in Solano County, Calif., exposed to a patient with unrecognized COVID-19, three tested positive for the virus, all of whom had unprotected patient contact, according to a [separate CDC report](#).

**FDA authorizes infusion pump to deliver nebulized medicine.** The FDA Monday authorized emergency use of an [infusion pump system](#) to deliver nebulized medications to patients with or suspected of having COVID-19, and reduce healthcare provider exposure to the patient.

## 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.

**HHS to increase Strategic National Stockpile's ventilator count.** HHS Monday [announced](#) seven new ventilator production contracts to boost national availability. Five of the contracts are rated under the Defense Production Act, meaning they must be accepted and prioritized by the contractors. HHS says the contracted companies agreed to supply 6,190 ventilators for the Strategic National Stockpile by May 8 and an additional 29,510 by June 1, with an overall goal of providing 137,431 new units by the end of the year.

## FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

**Medicare nearly doubles payment for high-throughput diagnostic tests.** Medicare will increase payment for certain "high-throughput" COVID-19 diagnostic tests to \$100 to expand testing capacity and speed results during the public health emergency, CMS [announced](#) yesterday. The tests can process more than 200 specimens a day but require specially trained technicians and more time-intensive processes to assure quality. CMS expects the payment increase to allow laboratories to expand testing, particularly to vulnerable nursing home

patients. Medicare administrative contractors previously paid about \$51 for these clinical laboratory diagnostic tests under Medicare Part B.

**CMS: 3-day waiver also applies to swing-bed care.** CMS clarified that the agency is waiving the Medicare coverage requirement for a three-day prior hospitalization requirement for both skilled nursing facilities and swing-bed services furnished by critical access hospitals and rural swing-bed hospitals, the agency says in a [new COVID-19 FAQ](#) on Medicare billing, specifically question 4.

**AHA, AMA release cybersecurity guide for physicians working from home.** The [guidance](#) offers physicians and hospitals specific steps to strengthen home or hospital-based computers, networks, mobile devices and medical devices from the rise in COVID-19-themed security threats and attacks. It includes checklists, sources, tips and advice on strengthening protections to keep pace with deceptive cyberattacks that could disrupt patient care or threaten medical records and other data.

**FEMA extends RPA deadline to April 30.** FEMA today announced it is extending the deadline for organizations to file a Request for Public Assistance. It was previously set for today, April 15.

**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](mailto: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 30**. 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](mailto:tthennis@mt.gov) or Sheri Medow at [sheris@mt.gov](mailto:sheris@mt.gov) with questions. If you have any difficulty with the forms, process or requirements, please notify MHA at [esf8@mtha.org](mailto: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.

## 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.

**HHS hospital-specific COVID-19 questions:** [HospitalCOVID19@hhs.gov](mailto: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](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: [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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