



OPERATIONS

FEMA Administrator: Lessons learned in first 30 days. This [letter](#) sent to emergency managers details lessons learned in the first 30 days of the COVID-19 response.

FDA actions authorize serology tests, N95 sterilization process. The FDA this week issued a pair of emergency use authorizations for serology tests to detect

for the presence of coronavirus antibodies. The EUAs were issued to [Ortho-Clinical Diagnostics, Inc.](#) for its VITROS Immunodiagnostic Products Anti-SARS-CoV-2 Total Reagent Pack and [Chembio Diagnostic Systems, Inc.](#) for its DPP COVID-19 IgM/IgG System.

FDA also [authorized](#) the emergency use of Stryker Instrument's Sterizone VP4 Sterilizer1 N95 Respirator Decontamination Cycle, a self-contained stand-alone device, using vaporized hydrogen peroxide and ozone to decontaminate N95 or N95-equivalent respirators that are contaminated with SARS-CoV2 and other pathogenic microorganisms so that the respirators can be reused by the original healthcare worker. In the EUA, FDA notes that available scientific information indicates that compatible N95 respirators can be processed up to two times using this Sterizone decontamination system.

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

CMS releases guidance implementing CARES Act provisions. CMS yesterday released [new guidance](#) implementing several provisions included in the CARES Act. These provisions include for COVID-19 patients a Medicare add-on payment of 20%, for both rural and urban hospitals; a waiver of the long-term care hospital site-neutral policy; a waiver of the LTCH "50% Rule"; and a waiver of the inpatient rehabilitation facility "3-hour Rule."

HHS opens CARES Act emergency fund attestation portal. Healthcare providers who receive funds from the \$100 billion Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund must within 30 days of receipt [attest](#) to receiving the funds and agree to the terms and conditions of payment. HHS on April 10 began [distributing](#) the first \$30 billion from the fund, created by the CARES Act, to reimburse providers for healthcare-related expenses or lost revenues not otherwise reimbursed that are directly attributable to COVID-19.

FBI alerts businesses, teleworkers to cyber risks. Cyber criminals are [mimicking](#) popular cloud-based email services to compromise business accounts and exploiting the COVID-19 pandemic to [perpetrate fraud](#) in telework environments, the FBI reports. In recent weeks, cyber actors have engaged in phishing campaigns against first responders, launched denial-of-service attacks against government agencies, deployed ransomware at medical facilities, and created fake COVID-19 websites that quietly download malware to victim devices, the agency said. Based on recent trends, the FBI assesses these same groups will target businesses and individuals working from home via telework software vulnerabilities, education technology platforms, and business email compromise schemes. Report any internet-related crime to the FBI using [this website](#).

Updated Medicaid and CHIP guidance on CARES Act. CMS recently [updated Frequently Asked Questions](#) on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) and Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act for Medicaid and CHIP guidance.

FEMA financial support forms due April 30. 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 (extended from April 15). 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.

COMMUNICATIONS

Call recordings and webinar playbacks. Missed a call or webinar promoted in MHA's daily COVID-19 Call & Webinar Alert? Many are recorded, and are [posted here](#) once available.

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

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 \(CDC\)](#)