

# SITREP



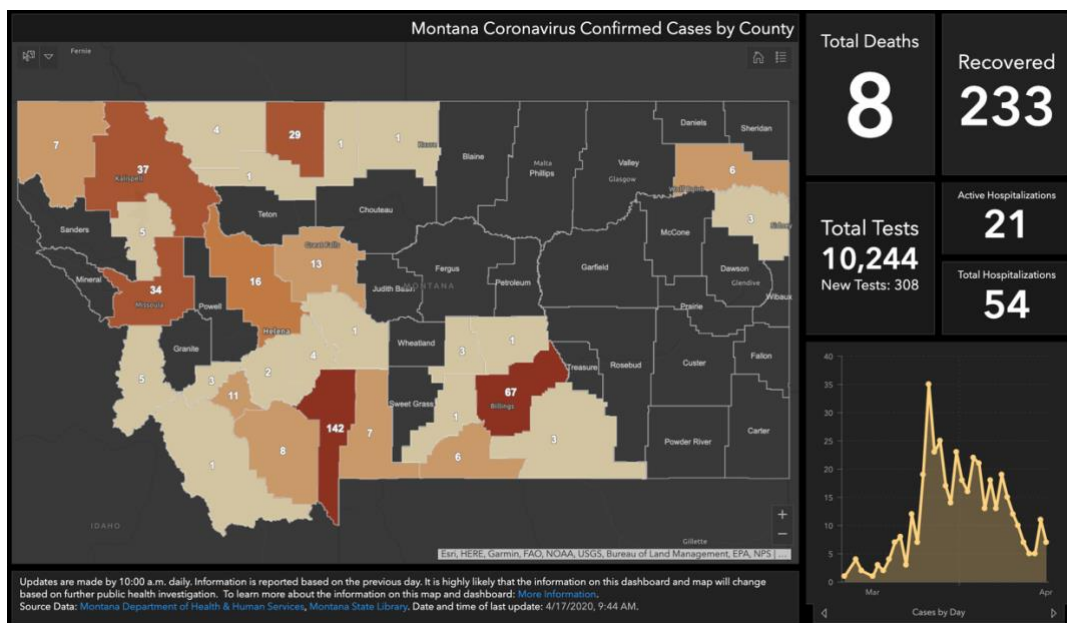
MONTANA  
HOSPITAL  
ASSOCIATION

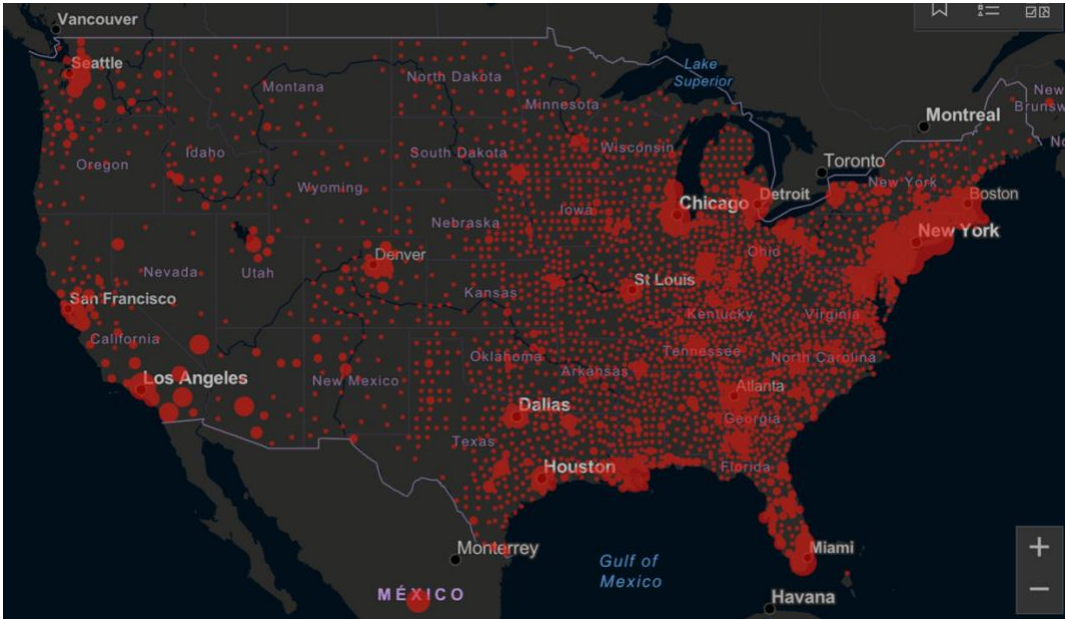
## Montana Hospital Association - Situation Report

April 17, 2020

# COVID-19

REPORTED CASES	
<b>Montana</b> <i>New in last 24 hours: 7 (+2%)</i> <i>Hospitalizations, Total: 54 (Last 24hrs: +2)</i> <i>Hospitalizations, Active: 21 (Last 24hrs: +0)</i> <i>Recovered: 233 (Last 24hrs: +15)</i> <i>Deaths: 8 (Last 24hrs: +1)</i> Source: <a href="#">Montana COVID-19 Dashboard</a>	<b>422</b>
<b>United States</b> <i>New in last 24 hours: 35,628 (+5%)</i> Source: <a href="#">Johns Hopkins CSSE Global Outbreak Dashboard</a>	<b>706,779</b>
<b>WA</b>	<b>11,445</b>
<b>ID</b>	<b>1,655</b>
<b>WY</b>	<b>305</b>
<b>ND</b>	<b>439</b>
<b>SD</b>	<b>1,411</b>





**President Trump announces plans to loosen social distancing.** President Trump yesterday announced [guidelines](#) that states and localities can use for easing social distancing restrictions, including criteria for employers, individuals and hospitals.

Before beginning a three-phase loosening of social distancing, states or regions would have to meet the following gating criteria:

- Downward trajectories of influenza-like illnesses and COVID-19-like syndromic cases reported within a 14-day period; and
- 14 days of downward trajectories of documented cases of positive tests as a percent of total tests within that period (flat or increasing volume of tests).

Furthermore, hospitals must be able to treat all patients without crisis care and communities must have in place robust testing programs for at-risk healthcare workers, including emerging antibody testing.

Once the gating criteria is met, communities must monitor for a rebound of cases before moving to other phases. Clinically appropriate elective surgeries can resume in outpatient settings during phase one and on an outpatient- and in-patient basis during phase two at facilities that adhere to Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services guidelines. Visits to senior care facilities and hospitals cannot resume until communities reach phase three.

**Governor Bullock plans a phased reopening of Montana economy, starting April 25.** Gov. Bullock today [announced](#) the State will next week have a phased plan for reopening the economy, to include metrics advised by President Trump and some unique to Montana. Metrics include:

- Sustained reduction of new cases for at least 14 days;
- Ability of hospitals to safely treat all patients — both COVID-19 and with other conditions — especially in rural areas; and
- Capacity to test all people with COVID-19 symptoms and for state and local public health officials to conduct active monitoring of newly confirmed cases and their contacts.

## OPERATIONS

**State of Montana adopts surge plan, crisis care guidance for COVID-19.** The [Scarce Resource Management and Crisis Care Guidance](#) and the [Montana COVID-19 Medical Surge Strategy](#) were both developed specifically in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, although many expect these documents will serve as a starting point for the development of more comprehensive guidance for a broader range of future public health emergencies. Both resources serve to guide, not direct, hospitals in order to allow the necessary flexibility to respond to unique situations. Executive and clinical leadership from MHA member institutions and MHA staff made significant contributions to both documents.

**CDC posts COVID-19 training for health professionals.** The CDC has collated in one location [training materials](#) for healthcare professionals during the COVID-19 emergency, including webinars, videos and online courses. Topics include clinical care and infection control, personal protective equipment, [nonpharmaceutical interventions](#) to slow the spread, and emergency preparedness and response.

## PLANNING

**State of Montana announces changes to data and resource reporting, aligning with HHS data requests.** Following the letter from US HHS Secretary Azar and the federal government's request for various data to support the COVID-19 response, MT DPHHS clarified data reporting by hospitals in this [memo](#) released yesterday. Hospitals will continue to report bed availability and ventilator capacity to Juvare/EMResource. PPE data will be reported to a [new PPE Survey Tool](#) instead of EMResource. COVID-19 patient data will be collected through a third survey portal, and used only at the direction of DPHHS public health officials following acquisition of confirmed COVID-19 patient.

## 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 announces Medicare telehealth payment rate for rural health centers.** CMS will pay rural health clinic and federally qualified health center providers a \$92 rate for distant site telehealth services provided to Medicare beneficiaries during the COVID-19 emergency, the agency said in [guidance](#) released today. The CARES Act authorized RHCs and FQHCs to furnish distant site telehealth services to Medicare beneficiaries during the emergency.

**New HCPCS codes created for high-throughput tests.** CMS has [created](#) two new Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System codes (U0003 and U0004) to bill under Medicare Part B for clinical diagnostic laboratory tests that use high-throughput technologies to detect and diagnose the novel coronavirus.

## 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. New additions today include:

- **Clinical Care/Main Folder:** Aerosol Generating Procedures, Case Management, Emergency Plan, Respiratory Inpatient Guide
- **Clinical Care/Crisis Standards of Care:** MT Crisis Care Guidance
- **General/Surge Planning:** MT MedSurge COVID-19
- **Long Term Care:** NJHA COVID-19 LTC Toolkit

**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)

###