

SITREP

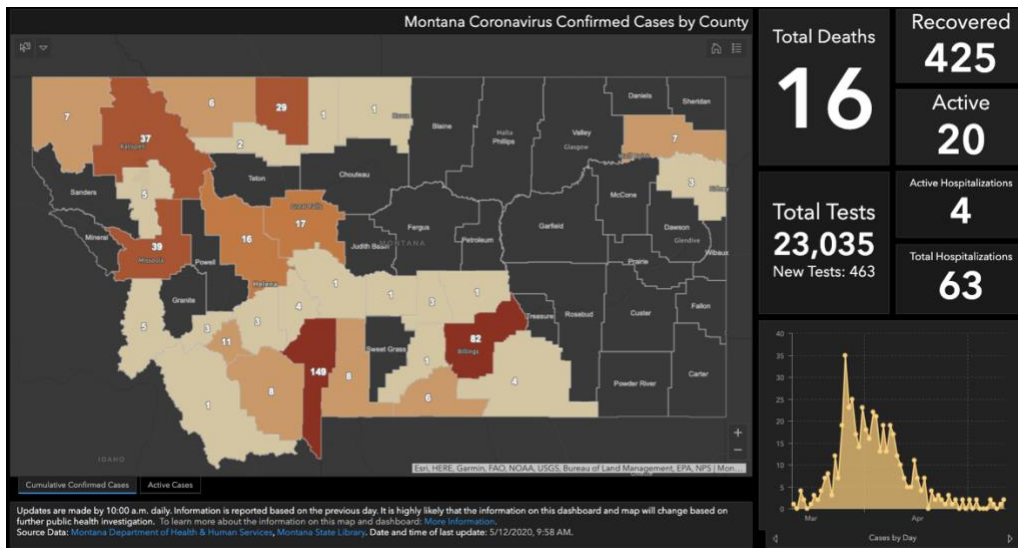


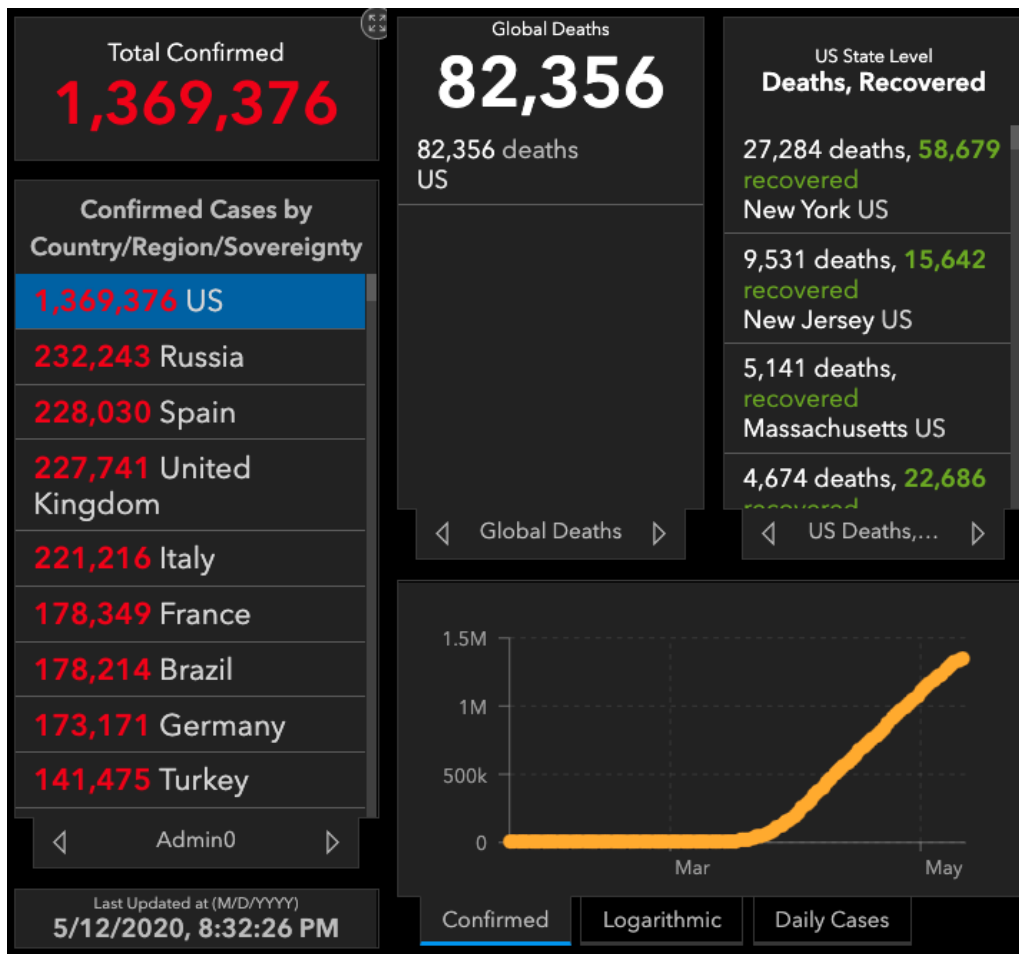
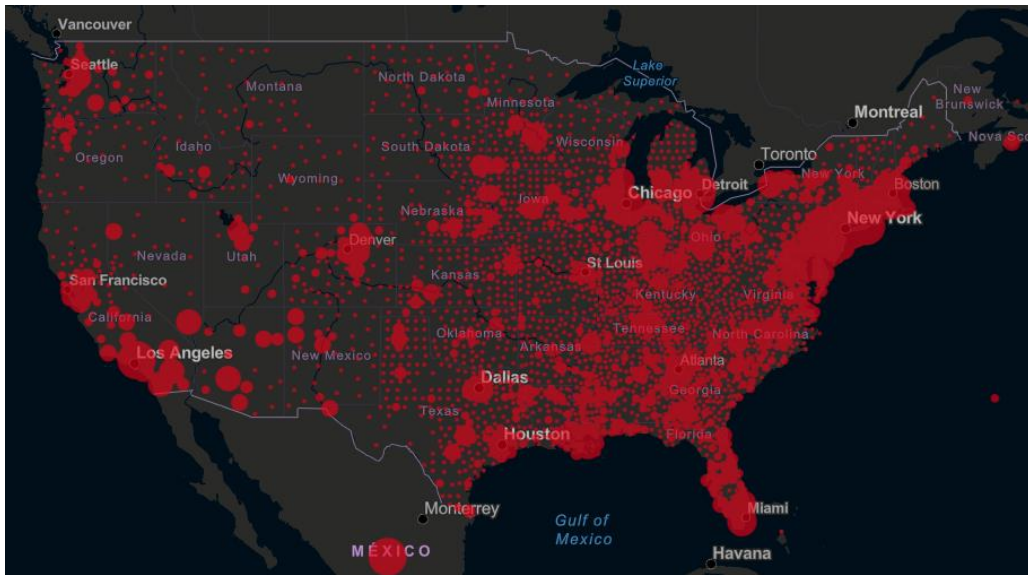
Montana Hospital Association - Situation Report

May 12, 2020

COVID-19

REPORTED CASES	
Montana <i>New in last 24 hours: +2</i> <i>Active Cases: 20 (Last 24hrs: +0)</i> <i>Recovered: 425 (Last 24hrs: +2)</i> <i>Hospitalizations, Total: 63 (Last 24hrs: +1)</i> <i>Hospitalizations, Active: 4 (Last 24hrs: +0)</i> <i>Deaths: 16 (Last 24hrs: +0)</i> Source: Montana COVID-19 Dashboard	461
United States <i>New in last 24 hours: 21,495 (+2%)</i> Source: Johns Hopkins CSSE Global Outbreak Dashboard	1,369,376
WA	17,330
ID	2,293
WY	675
ND	1,571
SD	3,663





House Democrats unveil \$3 trillion COVID-19 relief package. House Democrats today unveiled the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions (HEROES) Act — a \$3 trillion COVID-19 relief package. The House is expected to vote on the bill Friday. While it is expected to pass the House, the bill stands little chance of passing the Republican-controlled Senate or being signed by President Trump in its current form. The legislation is widely viewed as an opening offer in negotiations between Republicans and Democrats.

Some of the healthcare-related highlights of the 1,800-page bill include:

- Nearly \$1 trillion for states and local governments to respond to COVID-19;
- \$100 billion more in grants for hospital and healthcare providers through the Provider Relief Fund;
- \$7.6 billion to support expanded healthcare services for underserved populations through HRSA;
- Increasing FMAP payments by 14 percentage points starting July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021;
- Prohibiting finalization of the Medicaid Fiscal Accountability Rule (MFAR) until the public health emergency is over;
- Temporarily increasing Medicaid DSH allotments by 2.5 percent;
- Providing an outlier payment for inpatient claims for any amount over the traditional Medicare payment to cover excess costs hospitals incur for COVID19 patients until January 31, 2021;
- Lowering the interest rate for loans to Medicare providers made under the Accelerated and Advance Payment Program to 1%, reducing the per-claim recoupment percentage to 25%, and extending the period before repayment begins;
- Incentives for nursing facilities to create COVID-19-specific facilities;
- A \$200 billion "Heroes Fund" to ensure that essential workers during the pandemic receive hazard pay;
- Protections for Americans from losing their employer-provided health insurance by providing COBRA subsidies to help them retain their coverage and creating a Special Enrollment Period for Health Insurance Marketplaces; and
- Numerous changes to Medicare, Medicaid and other health programs.

OPERATIONS

EMS guidance and resources. EMS agencies may need to adjust operations and standards of care in order to preserve and effectively allocate limited EMS and healthcare system resources during the national pandemic response. Below are recently released resources and guidance for EMS officials.

- [Guidance for Preventing Disease Spread during Transport of Patients at High Risk for COVID-19 Illness](#)
- [COVID-19 Considerations Strategies and Resources for Emergency Medical Services Crisis Standards of Care](#)
- [Best Practices for COVID-19 Call Screening and Modified Response](#)

- More resources can be found on the ASPR TRACIE Topic Collection on [COVID-19 Pre-Hospital/Emergency Medical Services \(EMS\) Resources](#).

FDA authorizes propofol emulsion for emergency use for COVID-19 ventilator sedation. The FDA May 8 [authorized](#) the emergency use of Fresenius Propoven 2% Emulsion, which the agency says "may be effective to maintain sedation via continuous infusion in patients greater than 16 years old with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 who require mechanical ventilation in an ICU setting." The EUA was necessary because Fresenius Propoven 2% Emulsion has important differences in its formulation compared to FDA-approved propofol drugs; FDA therefore says that providers should consult the [fact sheet](#) for more information before the drug's administration.

PLANNING

HHS requests weekly data from hospitals to inform remdesivir distribution. HHS Monday announced that it is requesting certain data from hospitals to inform HHS's distribution of its supply of remdesivir, a drug that has shown encouraging results in treating certain COVID-19 patients in early clinical trials. Specifically, HHS is requesting weekly data on the number of currently hospitalized COVID-19 patients and, of those hospitalized, the number requiring placement in ICUs. HHS asks hospitals to submit the data using its TeleTracking web portal. This is the same portal HHS used last month for a one-time data request to inform its targeted distribution of funds to hospitals heavily impacted by COVID-19. Additional details are expected from HHS later this week.

State announces changes to data reporting. DPHHS announced the following changes to data reporting effective May 11:

- PPE Survey Tool will be discontinued. All PPE reporting will be done in EMResource.
- COVID hospitalization data loaded into the NHSN site will be optional for those facilities that use NHSN regardless of COVID-19 and the Formstack survey will be discontinued.
- Juvara/EMResource:
 - Will be updated to allow reporting of COVID-19 patients.
 - COVID-19 Hospitalization bed categories will be added to EMResource.
 - Hospitals will update beds and vents daily.
 - Hospitals will report PPE every Friday.
 - Long-term care facilities can reduce their bed and PPE reports to the Regional Coordinators to Fridays only. Regional Coordinators will email out a survey link weekly to each facility for bed and PPE data.

- Local DES Coordinators will continue to report their local PPE caches weekly to State DES.
- For questions, please contact your [Regional Coordinator](#).

LOGISTICS

Save used N95 masks: No-cost service to decontaminate N95 masks. The [Battelle presentation](#) from the May 8 webinar includes an overview and FAQs on the program. This no-cost service to Montana healthcare providers allows reuse of N95 masks up to 20x.

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 provides eligibility relief for hospitals. CMS recently provided hospitals with [new Medicare blanket waivers](#) to address the COVID-19 public health emergency. The waivers expand hospitals' ability to offer swing-bed services for patients who do not require acute care but do meet the skilled nursing facility level-of-care criteria. This waiver (see page 7) provides additional options in the case where hospitals are unable to find placement in SNFs.

The policy also provides relief by waiving, for the duration of the public health emergency, eligibility requirements for the following:

- Hospitals classified as sole community hospitals, in which CMS waived distance, market-share and applicable bed requirements (see page 10); and
- Hospitals classified as Medicare-dependent, small rural hospitals, in which CMS waived eligibility requirements that the hospital has 100 or fewer beds during the cost reporting period and at least 60% of the hospital's inpatient days or discharges were attributable to individuals entitled to Medicare Part A benefits during the specified hospital cost reporting periods (see page 10).

Both eligibility waivers are intended to assist hospitals in meeting their communities' needs, including increasing hospital capacity and promoting COVID-19 patients' appropriate cohorting.

COMMUNICATIONS

Actor Jeff Bridges stars in new Montana COVID-19 public awareness campaign. MHA today launched a new statewide COVID-19 public awareness campaign aimed at saving Montana lives by minimizing the spread of COVID-19 as the state reopens. The campaign, dubbed “Stay the Course, Montana,” is supported in part by grant from M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust.

- Watch last week’s [video message](#) from MHA President and CEO Rich Rasmussen announcing the campaign to the membership.
- Read the [announcement](#) sent to media today.
- Watch the [:30 PSA](#) featuring Jeff Bridges.
- Check out the new website, [StaytheCourseMontana.com](#).
- Share on your social channels with posts and content you can co-brand: [Stay the Course PSA Campaign Social Toolkit](#).

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:

- [Communications](#): “Stay the Course” Social Media Toolkit

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](#)

[MHA Consensus Statement on the Resumption of Elective Procedures](#)

[Summary of Funding Opportunities for Hospitals](#) (MHA)

REV. 5/10/20: [CDC What's New](#) (CDC)

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)

[Symptom-based Strategy to Discontinue Isolation for Persons with COVID-19](#)
(CDC)

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

[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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