

SITREP



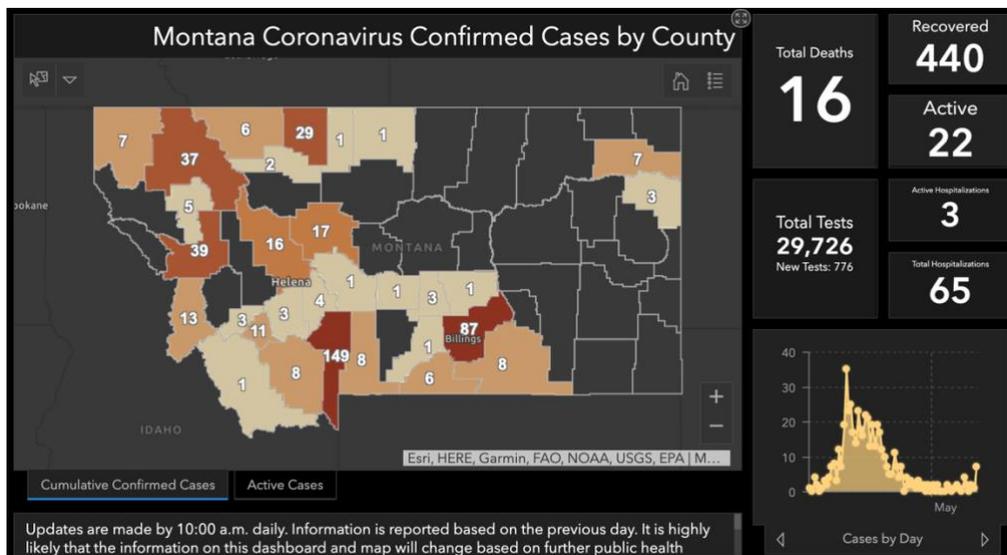
MONTANA
HOSPITAL
ASSOCIATION

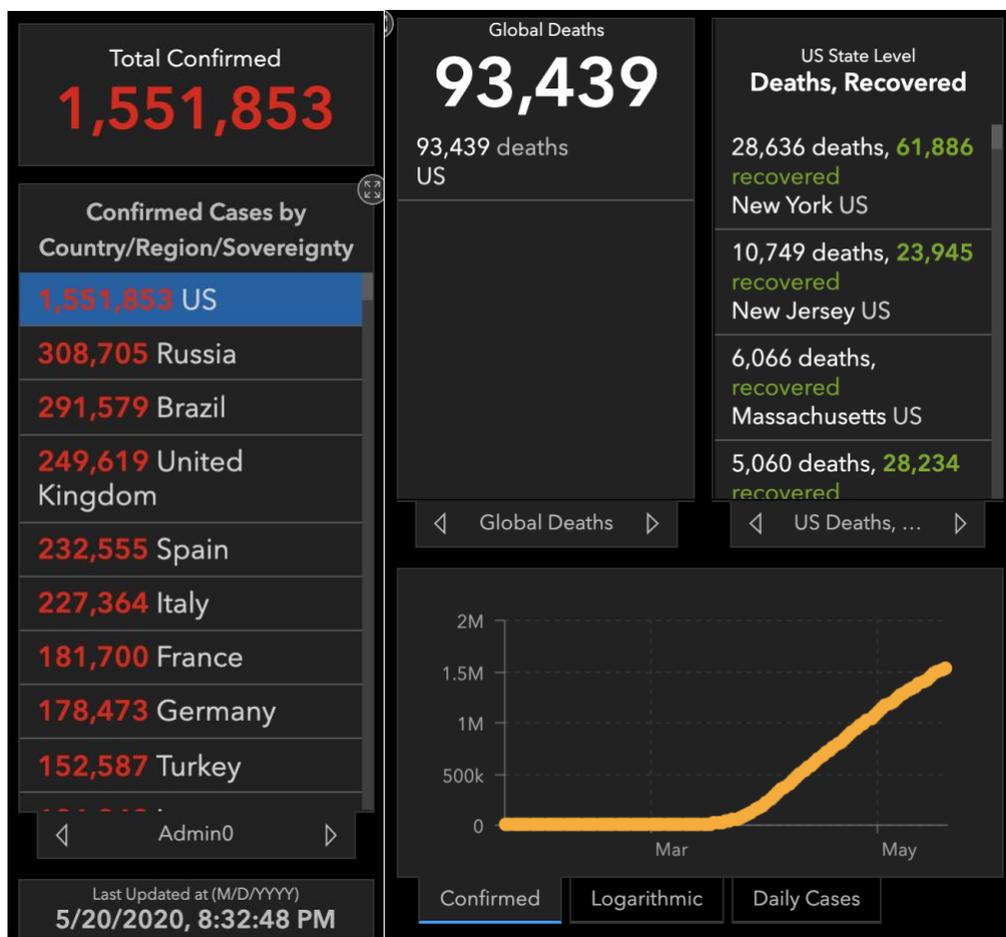
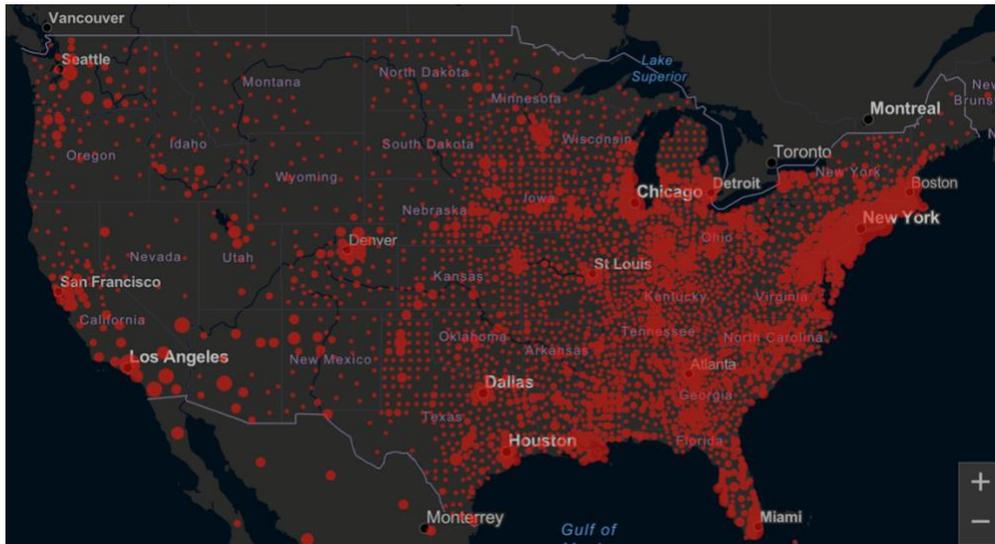
Montana Hospital Association - Situation Report

May 20, 2020

COVID-19

| REPORTED CASES | |
|---|------------------|
| Montana <i>New in last 24 hours: +7</i> <i>Active Cases: 22 (Last 24hrs: +4)</i> <i>Recovered: 440 (Last 24hrs: +3)</i> <i>Hospitalizations, Total: 65 (Last 24hrs: +0)</i> <i>Hospitalizations, Active: 3 (Last 24hrs: -2)</i> <i>Deaths: 16 (Last 24hrs: +0)</i> Source: Montana COVID-19 Dashboard | 478 |
| United States <i>New in last 24 hours: 23,285 (+2%)</i> Source: Johns Hopkins CSSE Global Outbreak Dashboard | 1,551,853 |
| WA | 18,971 |
| ID | 2,506 |
| WY | 787 |
| ND | 2,095 |
| SD | 4,177 |





OPERATIONS

HHS provides \$225 million for rural communities' COVID-19 testing. The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), part of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), today provided \$225 million to rural health clinics for COVID-19 testing. The funding will support the expansion of testing to more than 4,500 RHCs in underserved rural areas nationwide.

HRSA said that the funds may be used for a wide range of COVID-19 testing and related expenses, including planning for implementation of a COVID-19 testing program; procuring supplies to provide testing; training providers and staff on COVID-19 testing procedures; reporting data to HHS on COVID-19 testing activities; and building temporary structures, leasing properties and retrofitting facilities to support COVID-19 response efforts.

In addition, HRSA said it will award \$500,000 to support RHCs' COVID-19 technical assistance efforts, which include conducting webinars, and providing resources and guidance for implementation and management of testing programs. [Read more here.](#)

CDC releases framework for providing non-COVID-19 clinical care during the pandemic. The CDC has released a [framework](#) for providing non-COVID-19 clinical care during the pandemic, based on the level of community transmission and potential for patient harm from deferring in-person care. Among other considerations, CDC said healthcare systems should be prepared to rapidly detect and respond to an increase of COVID-19 cases in the community; provide care in the safest way possible; and consider that services may need to expand gradually. "Given the dynamic nature of the pandemic, considerations may change over time and vary by practice type and setting," the agency notes.

NIH accepting comments through May 26 on serology research priorities. The National Cancer Institute and National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, part of the National Institutes of Health, [seek input](#) through May 26 on research priorities for COVID-19 serology testing and related technologies, which are key to understanding immunity and developing vaccines against the virus. The Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act provides \$306 million to NIH to develop, validate, improve and implement serological testing and associated technologies. The agency intends to [solicit](#) applications for funding to establish Serological Sciences Centers of Excellence and projects to advance research on immune responses to the SARS-CoV-2 virus, including how it relates to cancer patients.

FDA approves drug for tracheal intubation, surgery or ventilation facilitation. To facilitate tracheal intubation and provide skeletal muscle relaxation during surgery or mechanical ventilation, the FDA yesterday approved the use of [succinylcholine chloride injection](#) USP 200 mg/10 mL. FDA warns that the drug's side effects include anaphylaxis, hyperkalemia and malignant hyperthermia.

PLANNING

Continue resource reporting to State. The following reporting requirements are in effect. For questions, please contact your [Regional Coordinator](#).

- **Hospitals:** Continue reporting to Juvare/EMResource as follows:
 - Daily: Bed and ventilator counts
 - Weekly (every Friday): PPE
 - Following treatment of COVID-19 patient(s): COVID-19 patient data, as directed by public health officials
- **Long-Term Care Facilities:** May 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.

LOGISTICS

Streamlined sign-up process for Battelle mask decontamination program.

Battelle and Montana DES have simplified the sign-up process for participation in the Critical Care Decontamination System (CCDS) for N95 masks. Get started with the [4-step sign-up process](#).

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

Sources of financial support for healthcare providers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Congress and the Trump Administration have taken a number of steps to make available financial resources for healthcare providers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of these policies were authorized through the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act. A [summary document](#) developed by Jones Day, provides an overview of these provisions, information on eligibility and the amount of funding available through each opportunity. The provisions highlighted include, but are not limited to:

- The Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund
- Grants through the Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Accelerated and advanced Medicare payments
- Suspension of the Medicare sequestration
- Expanded coverage of telehealth and COVID-19 testing

- The Paycheck Protection Program
- The Main Street New and Expanded Loan Facilities
- Various employer tax provisions

Reminder: Providers must act by June 3 to receive additional relief funds. HHS today [reminded](#) eligible healthcare providers that they have until June 3 to attest to receipt of payments from the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund, accept the terms and conditions and submit their revenue information to potentially qualify for an additional payment from the \$50 billion general distribution. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act and Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act included \$175 billion in the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund to reimburse healthcare providers for healthcare-related expenses or lost revenues not otherwise reimbursed that are attributable to COVID-19.

Updated Medicare payment fact sheet. CMS yesterday updated its Medicare payment fact sheet for COVID-19 diagnostic tests to add additional codes for which laboratories may bill Medicare. The [payment fact sheet](#) now includes CPT codes developed by the American Medical Association (AMA) for nucleic acid tests and serology tests.

Prior to this update, laboratories could bill for COVID-19 diagnostic tests using the code U0001 for tests developed by the CDC and code U0002 for non-CDC developed tests. The payment rate for CDC tests is \$35.91 and non-CDC tests is \$51.31.

The updated fact sheet details that the AMA developed CPT code 87635 for infectious agent detection by nucleic acid tests and codes 86769 and 86328 for serology tests. CMS notes that local Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) are responsible for developing payment amounts for the newly created codes in their respective jurisdictions until Medicare establishes national payment rates. *See next article.*

CMS gives broad COVID-19 test payment-setting authority to MACs. CMS yesterday [said](#) that until Medicare sets national payment rates for COVID-19-related testing claims, its Medicare Administrative Contractors have authority to set payment amounts in their respective jurisdictions. The policy applies to claims received for newly created Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System codes and includes two codes used by laboratories to bill for certain COVID-19 lab tests, including serology tests. There continues to be no cost-sharing with Medicare patients for these tests.

CMS releases additional waivers for hospitals and ground ambulance. CMS recently provided [additional blanket waivers](#) for the duration of the public health emergency that:

- Modify existing physical environment waivers to allow for increased flexibilities for surge capacity and patient quarantine at hospitals, psychiatric hospitals, and critical access hospitals as a result of COVID-19 (see page 4); and
- Modify the data collection period and data reporting period for ground ambulance organizations (see page 29).

COMMUNICATIONS

May 31 deadline for hospitals to share their community's stories of kindness for Reader's Digest feature. Hospitals can submit their stories of kindness in overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic by May 31 to be featured in Reader's Digest's Nicest Places in America 2020. The publication is searching for inspiring stories in an effort to demonstrate how Americans come together in kindness to overcome crisis, ease suffering and save lives. Visit the webpages to [apply](#) and to [learn more](#).

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](#)

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

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

[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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