SITREP

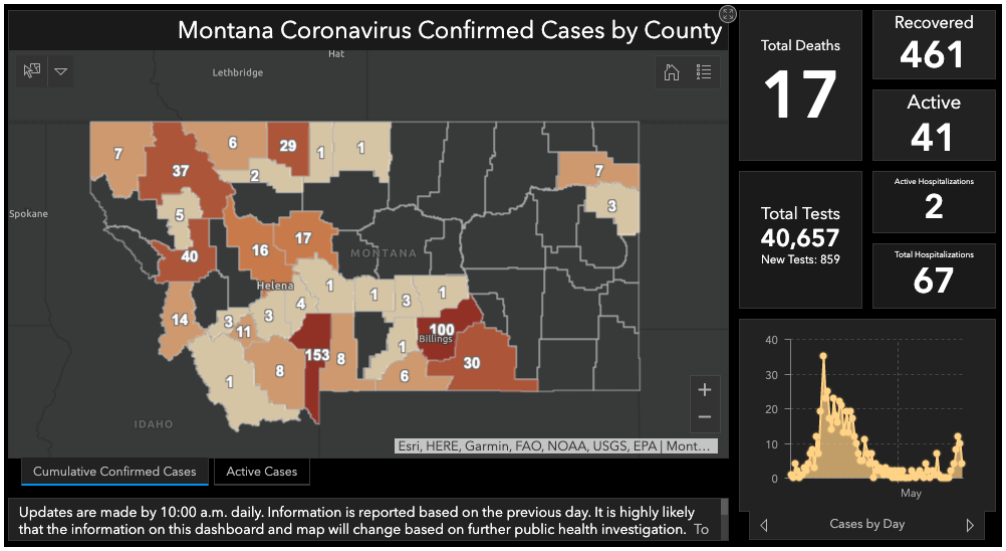
MHA Montana Hospital Association

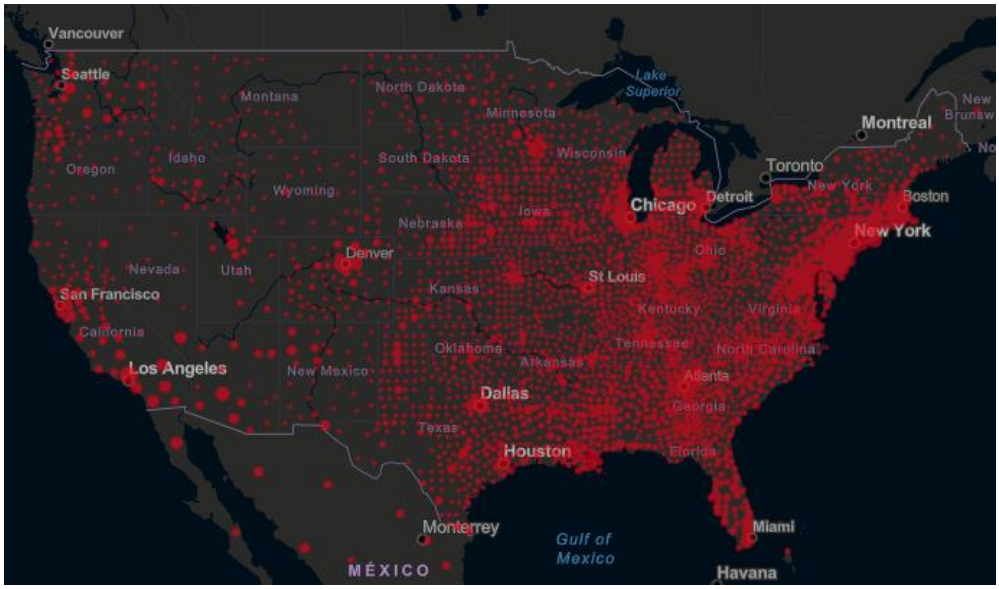
Montana Hospital Association - Situation Report

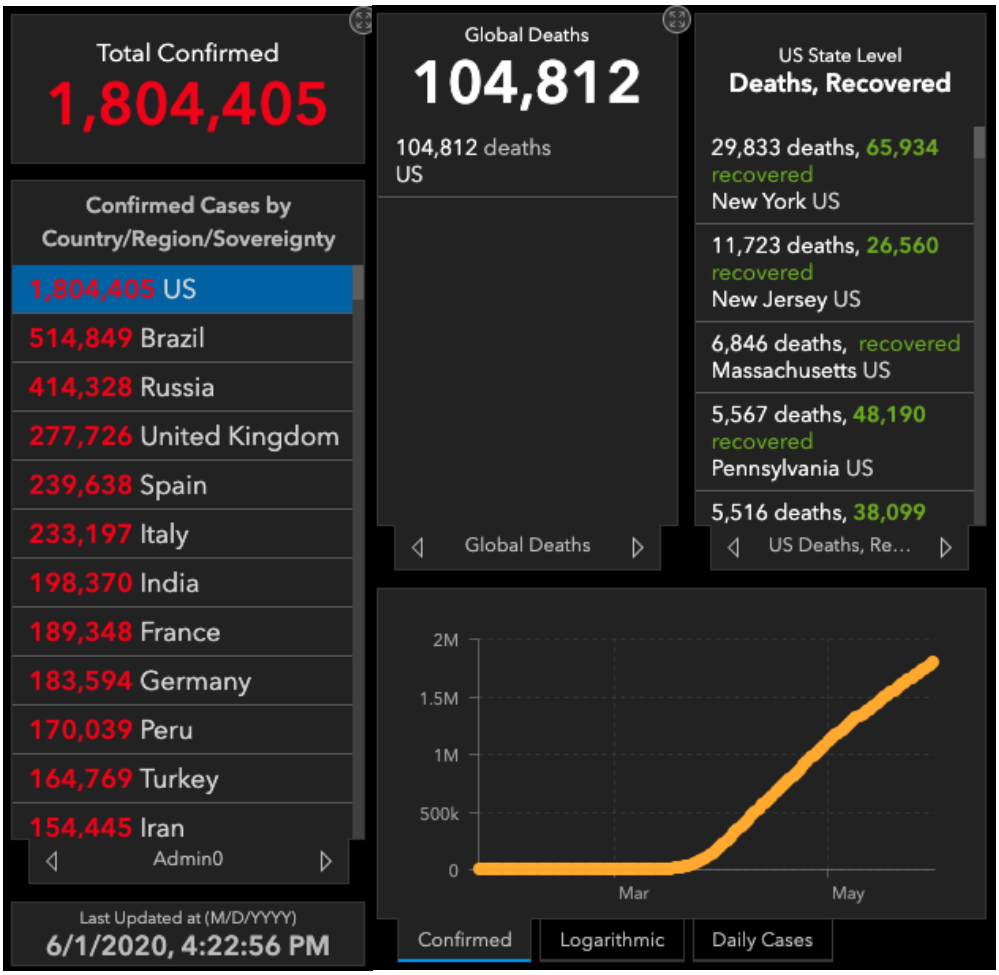
June 1, 2020

COVID-19

REPORTED CASES	
Montana ***New in last 24 hours: +4 (+less than 1%)*** ***Active Cases: 42 (Last 24hrs: +14)*** ***Recovered: 456 (Last 24hrs: +8)*** ***Hospitalizations, Total: 67 (Last 24hrs: +0)*** ***Hospitalizations, Active: 2 (Last 24hrs: +0)*** ***Deaths: 17 (Last 24hrs: +0)*** **Source: Montana COVID-19 Dashboard**	**519**
United States ***New in last 24 hours: 14,214 (+less than 1%)*** **Source: Johns Hopkins CSSE Global Outbreak Dashboard**	**1,804,405**
WA	**21,977**
ID	**2,839**
WY	**910**
ND	**2,625**
SD	**5,034**







Gov. Bullock, state health officials discuss case surge as Montana enters Phase Two of reopening. Governor Steve Bullock this afternoon hosted a press call to discuss the recent COVID-19 outbreaks in Yellowstone and Big Horn counties. "As we enter into Phase Two we recognize that there were 40 new cases last week," said Governor Bullock. "We have 22 new cases in Big Horn County, 12 active [cases] in Yellowstone County, and that's the vast majority of active cases in our state."

Bullock said there was some good news with the two outbreaks: Every case has been tracked to the original source of transmission, which has allowed health officials to halt further spread. Officials note there is no community spread—cases whose source or manner of transmission cannot be pinpointed—in either area at this time.

While many are concerned about potential spread resulting from incoming tourists, Chief of the DPHHS Communicable Disease Bureau Jim Murphy is more concerned about Montana citizens who travel. “Montanans going to visit other places and then coming back to Montana and resuming their regular life” is a risk, said Murphy. “That’s where you can get some big spread, too. All of us need to be aware of the new normal, of how to minimize your risk and also minimize the risk to the people around you.”

Bullock said the two new outbreaks do not give him pause as Montana enters Phase Two of its reopening plan, stating that local health officials have the option to keep restrictions in place if they deem the action necessary. Phase Two of the reopening began today with the lifting of the 14-day travel quarantine; group size for gatherings expanded to 50 people; capacity for restaurants, bars, breweries and casinos expanded to 75%; gyms, fitness classes and pools can open up to 75% capacity while observing physical distancing guidelines and CDC sanitation protocols; and removal of 24-person cap for child care facilities as long as physical distancing guidelines are implemented.

OPERATIONS

HHS announces agreement to speed COVID-19 vaccine manufacturing. HHS today announced a $628 million agreement with Emergent BioSolutions to advance manufacturing capabilities and capacity for a potential COVID-19 vaccine and therapeutics as part of Operation Warp Speed. "Before a vaccine is even approved, Emergent's manufacturing capabilities will pave the way for drug companies with candidates approaching approval to begin turning out doses," said HHS Secretary Alex Azar. "Securing more manufacturing capacity here in America for candidates that make it to the final stages of Operation Warp Speed will help get a vaccine to American patients without a day wasted."

CDC issues laboratory alert on MTM and cyanide gas. The CDC May 30 issued a laboratory alert concerning the production of cyanide gas when molecular transport media is exposed to bleach. The agency warned laboratories to not use PrimeStore MTM with platforms that include a disinfecting step that uses bleach, due to this dangerous chemical reaction.

FDA seeks to spur more development of at-home, self-collection COVID-19 tests. The FDA Friday took steps to encourage and streamline the development of COVID-19 tests whose specimens are collected at home by patients. To support this effort, the agency issued revised guidance for these tests' development and also offers a voluntary template that developers can use to secure emergency use authorizations.

PLANNING

HHS data request for remdesivir allocation due June 8. HHS today issued hospitals another data request in support of the next allocation of remdesivir. The deadline for input of the requested data will be 10:00 p.m. MST on Monday, June 8. Given the limited availability of the treatment, prioritization will be based upon the total number of hospitalized patients with COVID-19, confirmed or suspected, and the total number of ICU patients with COVID-19, confirmed or suspected. The request will originate from the TeleTracking HHS email (teletracking@hhs.gov) account. Any questions regarding this data request should be directed to: Sam Imbriale (HHS/ASPR) at Samuel.Imbriale@hhs.gov or Nick Robison (US Digital Service) at Nicholas.a.robison@omb.eop.gov.

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

FFS Providers: Using the CR Modifier and DR Condition Code. CMS today revised MLN Matters Special Edition Article SE20011 on Medicare Fee-for-Service (FFS) Response to the COVID-19 public health emergency to clarify when you must use modifier CR (catastrophe/disaster related) and/or condition code DR (disaster related) when submitting claims to Medicare. The update includes a chart of blanket waivers and flexibilities that require the modifier or condition code.

The Joint Commission to resume surveys this month. Regular surveys and reviews by The Joint Commission will resume this month, the commission announced last week. TJC, which had suspended surveys during the COVID-19 pandemic, said the surveys will resume with extra safety changes in place, including identifying and prioritizing low-risk areas in which it can safely survey. Specifically, TJC said the process will include social distancing practices, limits on the size of group sessions, the use of masks and personal protective equipment, and, when appropriate, the use of technology, such as video conferencing. The surveys' focus will be on how organizations adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic and review current practices; they will not retroactively review compliance.

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

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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