



Senate holds hearing on telehealth expansion. The Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Committee today held a [hearing](#) on telehealth lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic. Witnesses from the University of Virginia's Center for Telehealth, American Telemedicine Association, Project ECHO and BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee shared how certain legislative and regulatory changes to expand access to virtual care during the public health emergency are benefiting

patients and could in the future if continued. Members of the committee also shared specific examples of increased utilization in their local hospitals.

In opening remarks, committee Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN) said the federal government should permanently extend policy changes that nearly doubled the number of Medicare-reimbursable telehealth services and reimburse clinicians for telehealth services provided wherever the patient is located, and consider making 29 other COVID-19 policy changes permanent.

A [bipartisan group of 30 senators](#) this week urged congressional leaders to make permanent provisions included in previous COVID-19 legislation to expand access to telehealth services for Medicare beneficiaries.

OPERATIONS

FDA revokes EUA for antibody test. The FDA yesterday [revoked](#) the EUA for a SARS-CoV-2 antibody test made by Chembio Diagnostic System Inc. due to performance concerns with the accuracy of the test.

Updated resources for older adults and people with disabilities. HHS' Administration for Community Living yesterday [updated](#) its COVID-19 [resources](#).

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 NIOSH-approved 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](#).

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

SBA updates, simplifies Paycheck Protection Program loan forgiveness application. The SBA today released a [revised loan forgiveness application](#) for the Paycheck Protection Program, which implements provisions of the recently enacted PPP Flexibility Act. The agency also released an ["EZ" version](#) of the application for borrowers who: are self-employed and have no employees; did not reduce employees' salaries or wages by more than 25% and did not reduce employees or employee hours; or experienced reduced business activity due to COVID-19-related health directives and did not reduce employees' salaries or wages by more than 25%. Details on applying these provisions are available in [instructions](#) to the EZ form. Both applications give borrowers the option of using the original eight-week covered period for loans made before June 5 or an extended 24-week covered period, the agency [said](#).

Yesterday, SBA released an [interim final rule](#) revising certain previous rules for the program to conform with the PPP Flexibility Act. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act created the forgivable loans to help eligible small businesses keep workers on the payroll during the pandemic.

NIH grant program investigates COVID-19's impact on underserved and vulnerable populations. The National Institutes of Health is offering several grants to increase research into the growing body of evidence suggesting that underserved and/or vulnerable populations are more susceptible to COVID-19 infection, severe complications and associated death, as well as to the pandemic's social, behavioral and economic impacts. Through NIH's National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, the following grant opportunities are being made available:

- [Emergency Competitive Revisions for Social, Ethical, and Behavioral Implications Research on COVID-19 Testing among Underserved and/or Vulnerable Populations](#)
- [Emergency Competitive Revisions for Community-Engaged Research on COVID-19 Testing among Underserved and/or Vulnerable Populations](#)
- [RADx-UP Coordination and Data Collection Center \(CDCC\) \(U24 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)
- [Limited Competition for Emergency Competitive Revisions for Community-Engaged Research on COVID-19 Testing among Underserved and/or Vulnerable Populations](#)

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 lists and general sources of information on a wide range of COVID-19-related issues

[MHA COVID-19 General Resources page](#)

CLINICAL OPERATIONS

Resources on infection prevention and control, EMS operations, telehealth operations and care for specific populations from federal and state resources

[MHA COVID-19 Clinical Operations page](#)

LONG-TERM CARE & RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES

CDC and CMS resources specific to maintaining safe conditions in long-term care and retirement communities

[MHA COVID-19 Long-Term Care & Retirement Communities page](#)

SUPPLY CHAIN RESOURCES

Resources from AHRMM, AHA, Intalere, CDC and other sources on sourcing, conserving and properly using PPE

[MHA COVID-19 Supply Chain Resources page](#)

WORKFORCE PROTECTION & SUPPORT

MT DLI, CDC, OSHA and NIH toolkits, FAQs and other resources to protect employees and allow staff to return to work

[MHA COVID-19 Workforce Protection & Support page](#)

COMMUNITY MITIGATION STRATEGIES

CDC resources on community mitigation strategies

[MHA COVID-19 Community Mitigation Strategies page](#)

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Guidance, fact sheets and other resources on regulatory waivers and flexibilities in addition to catalogued financing information related to the CARES Act and other COVID-19 funding assistance

[MHA COVID-19 Finance & Administration page](#)

COMMUNICATIONS

Archive of MHA COVID-19 related communications as well as sample communications documents, toolkits and other resources from state and national levels

[MHA COVID-19 Communications page](#)

TESTING

FAQs, recommendations and other CDC, FDA and MT DPHHS resources related to COVID-19 testing

[MHA COVID-19 Testing page](#)

PLANNING

Best practices and planning documents from CDC, facilities on the front lines and MT DPHHS

[MHA COVID-19 Planning page](#)

