



OPERATIONS

Study: Convalescent plasma safe for patients with severe COVID-19. A study of the first 20,000 adults hospitalized with severe or life-threatening COVID-19 to receive convalescent plasma found the investigational therapy safe in this diverse group of patients, according to findings from the FDA's [Expanded Access Program for COVID-19](#) reported in Mayo Clinic Proceedings. The mortality rate in the first seven days after transfusion was 8.6%, down from 12% in an earlier study of the first 5,000 patients, and serious adverse events remained low at less than 1%, the authors said. "Given the accelerating deployment of this therapy, these emerging

data provide early safety indicators of convalescent plasma for COVID-19 treatment and suggest research should shift focus from safety toward determining the efficacy of convalescent plasma," they said.

CDC: Emergency department visits for life-threatening conditions declined in pandemic's early months. A new [study](#) released today by the CDC shows emergency department visits dropped by 23% for heart attacks, 20% for strokes and 10% for hyperglycemic crises in first 10 weeks after the COVID-19 public health emergency declaration. The study's authors captured 73% of the nation's ED visits from the CDC's National Syndromic Surveillance Program and local partners and compared numbers from the Jan. 5-March 14 period to those from March 15 to May 23. The study's authors said public health and healthcare professionals must publicly reinforce the importance of timely care for medical emergencies and give assurance that EDs are implementing infection prevention and control guidelines.

FDA issues guidance on removed COVID-19 antibody tests. Clinical laboratories and healthcare providers should stop using any antibody tests on the FDA's "removed" test list, evaluate prior results from the test and determine whether to retest the patient using an FDA-authorized test, the agency [said](#) Friday. FDA advises labs and providers to [report](#) any issues using COVID-19 tests.

Medical device manufacturers required to report supply disruptions in order to prevent shortages. The FDA Friday issued [guidance](#) implementing the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act requirement that medical device makers report supply disruptions during the COVID-19 emergency to prevent shortages.

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

Updated catalogue of health agency guidance. Healthcare consulting firm Wynne Health Group today released an updated [Catalogue of Health Agency Guidance and Government Response](#) to COVID-19. The document encapsulates and organizes relevant guidance for healthcare providers, insurers, state governments, public health agencies, and other stakeholders, as well as captures the status of major actions by the White House and Congress.

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](#)

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