





**Agencies testify at House hearing on COVID-19 response.** The House Energy and Commerce Committee today held a [hearing](#) on the administration's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which featured officials from the Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Food and Drug Administration, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Among

other updates, NIAID Director Anthony Fauci, MD, said the agency is supporting development of several SARS-CoV-2 vaccine candidates, including one by Moderna Inc. that could enter a phase 3 trial by July pending positive results in Phase 2. CDC Director Robert Redfield, MD, also said the agency continues to work with states and communities to expand COVID-19 testing and contact tracing.

## OPERATIONS

**Medicare releases preliminary demographic data on COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations.** Hospitalization rates for COVID-19 were nearly four times higher for black, and two times higher for Hispanic, Medicare beneficiaries than for white Medicare beneficiaries, according to [data](#) on COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations released yesterday by CMS. The analysis also showed that hospitalization rates were over three times higher for urban than rural Medicare beneficiaries, and that those who have end-stage renal disease or are dually eligible for Medicaid had the highest hospitalization rates. The findings reflect Medicare claims data from Jan. 1 through May 16. CMS intends to provide a monthly snapshot of COVID-19 case and hospitalization data for Medicare beneficiaries broken down by race/ethnicity, dual-eligible status, age, gender and rural/urban geography.

## 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:** Bed and PPE counts to be reported weekly on Fridays. 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

**HHS, Morehouse School of Medicine launch \$40 million effort to address COVID-19 health disparities.** HHS today [said](#) its Office of Minority Health will partner with the Morehouse School of Medicine to deliver education and resources on the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on racial- and ethnic-minority, rural and socially vulnerable communities. The three-year, \$40 million National Infrastructure for Mitigating the Impact of COVID-19 within Racial and Ethnic Minority Communities initiative will enlist community-based organizations via a strategic network of national, state, territorial, tribal and local organizations. The agency's announcement mirrors actions collectively requested by the American Hospital Association, the American Medical Association and American Nurses Association in an April 16 [letter](#) to HHS Secretary Alex Azar.

**Resources for telehealth implementation.** The Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) has developed a list of [resources](#) to assist the healthcare community with implementation of telehealth services, particularly within the COVID-19 context.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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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