June 25, 2020

COVID-19

REPORTED CASES	
Montana *New in last 24 hours: 37 (+5%)* *Active Cases: 210 (Last 24hrs: +36)* *Recovered: 572 (Last 24hrs: +1)* *Hospitalizations, Total: 93 (Last 24hrs: +0)* *Hospitalizations, Active: 15 (Last 24hrs: -2)* *Deaths: 21 (Last 24hrs: +0)* Source: <u>Montana COVID-19 Dashboard</u>	**803**
United States *New in last 24 hours: 29,875 (+1%)* Source: **Johns Hopkins CSSE Global Outbreak Dashboard**	**2,411,413**
WA	**29,869**
ID	**4,741**
WY	**1,326**
ND	**3,393**
SD	**6,479**

OPERATIONS

Montana to permit safe visitation in nursing homes, assisted living facilities.
Governor Steve Bullock today announced an updated directive that permits safe visitation in nursing homes and assisted living facilities that are able to follow infection control protocols per guidance issued by CMS and the CDC. Earlier this week, CMS issued a FAQ document on nursing home visitation considerations during reopening.

Nursing home staffing rules eased during pandemic to go back in effect. CMS today announced plans to once again require nursing homes to submit payroll-based staffing data to federal regulators. The move ends a waiver that temporarily allowed the facilities to provide self-reported staffing data. The waiver, announced in early March, was designed to reduce administrative requirements so the facilities could concentrate more resources on COVID-19 care. Under the [new guidance](), nursing homes that receive payments from CMS must submit payroll-based staffing data for the second quarter (April through June) by August 14. The memorandum also provides updates related to staffing and quality measures used on the Nursing Home Compare website and the Five Star Rating System.

FDA, USDA: No evidence that food, food packaging transmits COVID-19. In a [joint statement]() released yesterday, FDA Commissioner Stephen Hahn and the Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced that there is no evidence that people can contract COVID-19 from food or food packaging. The statement is an effort to alleviate concerns over the role food processors play in the potential transmission of the disease.

CDC COVID-19 webinar series for long-term care staff. The CDC recently released a webinar training series for front line long-term care and nursing home staff. This series of five short webinars reviews basic infection prevention steps including: [proper use of PPE]() and facemasks, how and when to perform [hand hygiene](), how and when to [clean surfaces](), and the need to [check residents]() and [staff]() daily for symptoms of COVID-19.

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

CMS clarifies pause on LTCH policy. CMS recently confirmed that Medicare contractors will not calculate an average length of stay for long-term care hospitals for cost reporting periods that include the COVID-19 public health emergency, which took effect March 1. In April, CMS implemented a blanket waiver of the LTCH policy requiring an average length of stay of greater than 25 days. Contractors will resume evaluating compliance with the policy for the first cost reporting period that does not include the public health emergency.

CMS: Clinicians can apply for COVID-19 MIPS exception. Clinicians participating in the Quality Payment Program Merit-based Incentive Payment System in 2020 whose practice was significantly impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency may apply for an exception to reweight the MIPS performance categories, CMS announced yesterday. For more information, see the exception applications fact sheet and webpage.

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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