



OPERATIONS

Record number of new COVID-19 cases reported Friday. State health officials reported more than 350 new cases of COVID-19 over the weekend, including five more deaths due to the virus. Friday marked another record with 217 confirmed cases, pushing Yellowstone County toward 900 cases and Gallatin County toward 800. Missoula passed the 200 mark with more than 25 new cases reported

Saturday by state health officials. Five fatalities since Friday included one each in Lake and Glacier counties and three more in Yellowstone County.

HHS renews public health emergency. HHS last week formally [renewed](#) the COVID-19 public health emergency declaration. This newest declaration will be effective from July 25 through October 23, 2020, unless HHS Secretary Azar determines that the PHE has ceased to exist prior to that date. The extension means that several key temporary policy changes will now remain in place through at least October, as they are statutorily or regulatorily tied to the existence of the COVID-19 PHE, such as the existing 6.2% enhancement for all states of the Medicaid Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) rate and landmark telehealth flexibilities ([summary chart](#)).

HHS encourages convalescent plasma donations. HHS is encouraging eligible patients who recover from COVID-19 to donate convalescent plasma, which contains antibodies that could help other patients fight the virus. According to [recent findings](#) from the FDA's Expanded Access Program for 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 diverse patients. For more on donating COVID-19 convalescent plasma, visit the [FDA's webpage on donation](#).

PLANNING

HHS requests daily data reporting to TeleTracking. HHS recently [announced](#) significant changes to the process for hospitals to fulfill the agency's request for daily data reporting on bed capacity, utilization, personal protective equipment (PPE) and in-house laboratory testing data. HHS notes it will no longer ask for one-time requests for data to aid in the distribution of remdesivir or any other treatments or supplies. This means that the daily reporting is the only mechanism used for the distribution calculations. For issues with accessing the TeleTracking portal or questions about the data, contact TeleTracking Technical Support at 1-877-570-6903.

Continue resource reporting to State. Until further notice, continue reporting the following data as follows. 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. Use this [survey link](#) weekly to report bed and PPE data.

LOGISTICS

Submit PPE needs to DES coordinator in order to ensure allocation. Until further notice, healthcare organizations MUST [submit needs to their local DES coordinator](#) in order to receive an allocation of emergency PPE.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

TODAY: HHS webinar on applying for Medicaid/CHIP provider relief funds. HHS today, July 27, at 1 p.m. MT will host a webinar on the Provider Relief Fund application process for eligible Medicaid, Children’s Health Insurance Program and dental providers. Established through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, the Provider Relief Fund is distributing \$15 billion to these providers. [Register for the webinar here.](#)

Montana QAD surveys to start July 20. Montana DPHHS’s Certification Bureau last week announced it will start surveying Non-Immediate Jeopardy High Complaints for long term care and non-long term care facilities effective July 20, 2020. This is in alignment with [CMS QSO Memo 20-31-ALL](#) COVID-19 Survey Activities, CARES Act Funding, Enhanced Enforcement for Infection Control deficiencies, and Quality Improvement Activities in Nursing Homes. These surveys will be started in conjunction with the weekly CMS list of long term care facilities with active or suspected COVID-19 cases which is provided and requires targeted infection control surveys to be completed in 3 to 5 business days (hot spot county) or 2 days (superhot spot county). For questions, contact MT DPHHS Quality Assurance Division at 406-447-2037.

CMS announces COVID-19 long-term-care funding, testing requirement. HHS will devote \$5 billion of the CARES Act’s Provider Relief Fund to enhance COVID-19 response at Medicare-certified long-term care facilities and state veterans’ homes, CMS [announced](#) July 22. Among other needs, the funding could be used to hire additional staff, implement infection control “mentorship” programs, increase testing and provide additional services such as technology so residents can connect with their families if they are not able to visit, CMS said. To qualify for the funding, nursing homes must participate in COVID-19 training on infection control and best practices, which CMS and the CDC are rolling out online.

Building on its plan to distribute 15,000 rapid point-of-care diagnostic testing devices to nursing homes over the next several months, CMS said it will begin requiring nursing homes in states with a 5% positivity rate or greater to test all staff each week to help identify asymptomatic carriers. The agency said it also

plans to release and send to states a weekly list of nursing homes with an increase in cases so they can target their support to the highest risk nursing homes.

Federal Reserve issues FAQs on Main Street Lending Program for nonprofit organizations. The Federal Reserve today issued [FAQs](#) about the Main Street Lending Program facilities for nonprofit organizations, including the Nonprofit Organization New Loan Facility and the Nonprofit Organization Expanded Loan Facility. The Federal Reserve modified the Main Street Lending Program to provide a new borrowing option for nonprofit organizations including hospitals. The expanded program offers loans to small- and medium-sized nonprofits that were in sound financial condition before the COVID-19 pandemic and could benefit from additional liquidity to manage during the current pandemic.

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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