



Senate Republicans unveil HEALS Act, COVID-19 relief package. Senate Republicans yesterday unveiled the Health, Economic Assistance, Liability Protection, and Schools (HEALS) Act – a roughly \$1 trillion package intended to provide additional coronavirus relief, support the federal government’s coronavirus response, help businesses and schools reopen safely, and stimulate the economy. The package is a compilation of individual bills authored by Republican Committee leaders. The HEALS Act appears to be a marker bill that

stakes out Republicans' starting position in negotiations with Democrats. [Review a summary of the HEALS Act package and its healthcare-related bills here.](#)

OPERATIONS

FDA authorizes first COVID-19 diagnostic test for asymptomatic people. The FDA Friday reissued its emergency use authorization for the LabCorp COVID-19 RT-PCR Test to include authorized use for asymptomatic individuals and for pooled sample testing with up to five individual specimens. FDA previously authorized emergency use of the test for patients with suspected COVID-19 and individual specimens.

“FDA’s authorization of the first diagnostic test to be used for anyone, regardless of whether they are showing symptoms of COVID-19 or have other exposure risk factors, is a step toward the type of broad screening that may help enable the reopening of schools and workplaces,” [said](#) FDA Commissioner Stephen Hahn, MD. “By authorizing another test for use with pooled samples, we also further help increase the possibility that patients may be able to receive results sooner, while also conserving vital testing supplies, which are under increased demand during the pandemic.”

Moderna’s COVID-19 vaccine candidate enters phase 3 clinical trial. The National Institutes of Health yesterday [announced](#) that a COVID-19 vaccine candidate co-developed by Moderna, Inc. and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases has begun a phase 3 clinical trial. The mRNA-1273 investigational vaccine will be tested at U.S. clinical research sites on approximately 30,000 adult volunteers who do not have COVID-19. “Results from early-stage clinical testing indicate the investigational mRNA-1273 vaccine is safe and immunogenic, supporting the initiation of a Phase 3 clinical trial,” said NIAID Director Anthony Fauci, MD. “This scientifically rigorous, randomized, placebo-controlled trial is designed to determine if the vaccine can prevent COVID-19 and for how long such protection may last.”

HHS, Defense Department invest \$7.6 million to ramp up COVID-19 testing consumables production. Hologic Inc. Sunday [received](#) \$7.6 million from HHS and Department of Defense to increase production of supplies needed for COVID-19 testing, including custom sample collection and processing consumables. HHS said the contract will expand the company’s production from 4.8 million to 6.8 million tests per month, particularly for tubes, caps and multi-tube units for molecular diagnostic tests.

Ethical framework for access to palliative drugs. The Hastings Center has released a [supplement](#) to its Ethical Framework for Healthcare Institutions

Responding to COVID-19. The resource features lessons from the initial COVID-19 surge, ethical considerations in approaching allocation of therapeutic drugs, and equity in access.

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

Deadline for Medicaid, CHIP providers to apply for relief fund payments extended to August 3. HHS has extended the deadline to apply for payment from the Provider Relief Fund General Allocation to August 3, 2020. HHS is allocating \$15 billion to providers who participate in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program and have not received a payment from the Provider Relief Fund. As of July 10, less than 2% of the Medicaid/CHIP providers that CMS anticipates are eligible for Provider Relief Fund payments have submitted

applications through the portal in most states. Montana DPHHS encourages providers to apply even if you are uncertain whether you are eligible.

The [DPHHS overview and access guide](#) recaps requirements for eligibility and how to apply. Other resources include the [application form](#), a set of [instructions for providers](#), and the [portal](#) to complete the application process.

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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