



Hospital groups urge CMS to delay repayment of accelerated payments. Six national organizations representing hospitals yesterday [urged](#) CMS to delay the start of repayments associated with the Medicare Accelerated and Advance Payment Programs. The first hospitals and health systems to receive accelerated payments are scheduled to start repaying them soon.

“While there will be efforts to make improvements to AAP as part of the next COVID-19 relief package, Congress may not have this legislation completed until

after Aug. 1, and we therefore ask that CMS delay the start of the repayments until legislators have the opportunity to make changes to the programs,” the groups wrote. “We urge you to promptly exercise the authority available to CMS to adjust the repayment schedule to allow our facilities to respond to COVID-19, plan for the future and continue to provide the vital care expected by our patients and our communities.” The letter was signed by the American Hospital Association, America’s Essential Hospitals, the Association of American Medical Colleges, Catholic Health Association of the United States, Federation of American Hospitals, and National Association for Behavioral Healthcare.

OPERATIONS

MT DPHHS releases updated analysis of COVID-19 cases in Montana. The [report](#) is based on COVID-19 case information available as of July 24. There were 3,252 cases at the time of analysis.

FDA issues new EUAs for diagnostic tests, updates list of bad hand sanitizers. FDA yesterday issued emergency use authorizations to [Eli Lilly](#) and [Sandia National Laboratories](#) for molecular diagnostic tests for SARS-CoV-2. The agency also continues to [warn](#) healthcare providers and the public not to use hand sanitizers containing methanol. FDA has updated its [do-not-use list](#) of hand sanitizer products; in most cases, methanol does not appear on the product label.

ASPR releases new, updated COVID-19 resources. HHS’ Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response recently posted these new and updated COVID-19 resources at its [Technical Resources, Assistance Center, and Information Exchange](#) (TRACIE):

- A [recorded webinar](#) on using telemedicine at alternate care sites.
- A [compilation of reports and findings](#) on the clinical presentation of COVID-19 patients.
- An [updated resource compiling key COVID-19 guidance](#) for hospitals in areas such as hospital surge, crisis standards of care, workforce protection and resumption of services.
- COVID-19 lessons from [urgent care centers](#).

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

CMS answers questions on Medicare fee-for-service billing during COVID-19.

CMS Tuesday updated its [COVID-19 FAQs](#) to address emerging questions regarding Medicare fee-for-service billing. Among the additions are updates to the questions and answers on hospital billing for remote services and outpatient therapy services. There are also new sections on whether hospitals can bill for and receive separate payment for COVID-19 testing services that are provided in the outpatient department prior to an inpatient admission, as well as the application of cost-sharing modifiers to pre-survey testing services that include COVID-19 testing.

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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