





## OPERATIONS

### FDA alerts laboratories, providers to risk of false results with COVID-19 test kit.

A test kit made by Thermo Fisher Scientific to detect COVID-19 from respiratory specimens may produce false positive results, the FDA [warned](#) recently. The agency recommends that clinical laboratories and healthcare providers using the TaqPath COVID-19 Combo Kit promptly implement updates to the software and use instructions, among other actions.

**CDC reports find one in four U.S. counties were COVID-19 hotspots for at least one day between March and July; racial and ethnic disparities identified.** One in four U.S. counties, or 818, were COVID-19 hotspots for at least one day in the

period between March 8 and July 15. Together these counties represent 80 percent of the U.S. population. See the report [here](#). A second [report](#) found that of the 205 hotspot counties identified nationwide in June, only 79 counties reported the patient's race for more than 50 percent of cases, and in 96 percent of those counties, racial and ethnic disparities were noted.

### **CDC finds racial and ethnic disparities in COVID-19 workplace outbreaks in Utah.**

The [report](#) found Hispanic and other non-white workers accounted for 73 percent of the 1,389 COVID-19 cases associated with workplace infections in Utah between March 6 and June 5. The outbreaks were primarily in manufacturing, construction and wholesale trade.

## **PLANNING**

**Continue daily data reporting to HHS.** HHS recently updated [guidance and frequently asked questions](#) (FAQs) regarding the agency's request for daily COVID-19-related hospital data reporting. These data will be used to inform decisions at the federal level, such as allocation of supplies, treatments and other resources. This daily reporting is the only mechanism used for the distribution calculations, and daily reports are needed daily to ensure accurate calculations.

**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**

**CDC recently updated its guidance for healthcare personnel returning to work after confirmed or suspected COVID-19.** Among the [changes](#), for healthcare personnel with severe to critical illness or who are severely immunocompromised, the recommended duration for work exclusion is changed to at least 10 days and up to 20 days after symptom onset. Further, the guidance includes a recommendation to consider consultation with infection control experts; adds an example applying disease severity in determining duration before return to work; and adds hematopoietic stem cell or solid organ transplant to severely immunocompromised conditions. CDC also makes similar updates to

its [guidance](#) on when healthcare facilities may discontinue transmission-based precautions or discharge patients infected with SARS-CoV-2. The agency said the changes more closely align with its [recent decision memo](#) on duration of isolation and precautions for adults with COVID-19.

**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 issues new requirement for DRG add-on.** CMS has updated its [guidance](#) related to the 20 percent inpatient prospective payment system diagnosis-related group rate add-on for patients diagnosed with COVID-19. For inpatient admissions occurring on or after Sept. 1, 2020, claims eligible for the 20 percent add-on will be required to have a positive COVID-19 laboratory test documented in patients' medical records.

## COMMUNICATIONS

**Montana Office of Tourism and Business Development launches safe travel campaign.** The Montana Department of Commerce's Office of Tourism and Business Development has launched the "[Montana Aware](#)" campaign to promote safe and responsible behavior among those who are traveling in the state. The public health initiative aims to educate residents and visitors on best practices to slow the spread of COVID-19. Seventeen of Montana's Convention and Visitors Bureaus and six tourism regions share \$5 million to promote the initiative. The initiative has developed a free communications [toolkit](#) that includes a web badge, posters and flyers, social media posts, and other customizable materials for use by any organization.

**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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