September 18, 2020

COVID-19

REPORTED CASES	
Montana *New in last 24hrs: 224 (+more than 2%)* *Active Cases: 2,225 (+122)* *Recovered: 7,500 (+99)* *Hospitalizations, Total: 555 (+6)* *Hospitalizations, Active: 105 (-2)* *Deaths: 146 (Last 24hrs: +3)* Source: Montana COVID-19 Dashboard (Updated 10:00 a.m.)	**9,871**
United States *New in last 24hrs: 36,940 (+less than 1%)* Source: Johns Hopkins CSSE Global Outbreak Dashboard	6,681,251
WA	81,198
ID	36,489
WY	4,652
ND	17,230
SD	17,686

OPERATIONS

Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis Chair expresses concern over weakened public health recommendations. The House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis Chairman James Clyburn (D-SC) sent a letter to Vice President Mike Pence and Coronavirus Response Coordinator Dr. Deborah Birx, expressing concerns that the White House Coronavirus Task Force, under political pressure, weakened science-based public health recommendations.

CDC study suggests COVID-19 mitigation efforts could reduce impact of flu. A new CDC study suggests that social distancing and other measures to stop the spread of COVID-19 could help reduce the impact of flu this fall and winter in the United States if widely practiced. "However, in light of the novelty of the COVID-

19 pandemic and the uncertainty of continued community mitigation measures, it is important to plan for seasonal influenza circulation this fall and winter," they add. "Influenza vaccination for all persons aged older than 6 months remains the best method for influenza prevention and is especially important this season when COVID-19 and influenza virus might cocirculate."

FDA approves new option amid COVID-19-spurred sedation drug shortages. The FDA this week approved dexmedetomidine hydrochloride in 0.9% sodium chloride injection for the sedation of initially intubated and mechanically ventilated patients in an intensive-care setting and of non-intubated patients prior to and/or during surgical and other procedures. The drug helps address short supplies of sedation options due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Side effects of the drug include low blood pressure, slow heart rate and dry mouth.

PLANNING

New HHS data reporting platform - Single data entry fulfills state and federal requirements. MHA has purchased a new HHS Data Reporting Platform with COVID-19 grant funding. This creates a single, secure data entry point to fulfill both state and federal requirements, including state PPE resource allocation and HHS Teletracking mandates. This new single-entry system is especially critical with CMS' new rules that require such reporting as a Condition of Participation for Medicare and Medicaid. Hospitals will face possible termination of Medicare and Medicaid payments if unable to correct reporting deficiencies. See the complete details on the new platform here.

As of September 8, 2020 hospitals should utilize EMResource for statewide bed availability, PPE and Remdisivir data, as well as, all TeleTracking data points, including HHS lab testing. Upon entering HHS data into EMResource, Juvare will automatically upload data to TeleTracking on behalf of your facility daily. Facilities may continue entering their own data into TeleTracking if they choose. All laboratories conducting COVID-19 testing and reporting patient-specific results – including hospital labs, nursing homes, and other facilities conducting testing for COVID-19 – will be required to comply. If a laboratory does not report the required information, CMS will impose a civil monetary penalty in the amount of $1,000 a day for the first day, and $500 for each subsequent day.

Long-Term Care facilities must transition all PPE and bed reporting to EMResources as of October 1, 2020. The previous weekly survey hosted on Formstack will become inactive on October 1, 2020. Facilities that do not have access to EMResource should email contact information to hppcoordinators@mtha.org.

For questions, please contact your Regional Coordinator.

LOGISTICS

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

- [Critical Care Load-Balancing Operational Template](#) and [Considerations for Assessing Regional Patient Load-Balancing Effects during COVID-19](#) to help manage COVID-19 patient surge;
- [COVID-19 Considerations for LTC Facilities toolkit](#) compiling consideration based on lessons learned during the pandemic's early months; and
- an interagency [Behavioral Health Compendium](#) to help regional emergency coordinators and federal and state planners support stakeholders in various areas of COVID-19 response and recovery.

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.

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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