

SITREP



MONTANA
HOSPITAL
ASSOCIATION

Montana Hospital Association - Situation Report

October 2, 2020

COVID-19

REPORTED CASES	
Montana <i>New in last 72hrs: 1,131 (+3% avg. growth per day)</i> <i>Active Cases: 4,100 (+646)</i> <i>Recovered: 9,569 (+476)</i> <i>Hospitalizations, Total: 729 (+20)</i> <i>Hospitalizations, Active: 177 (+11)</i> <i>Deaths: 186 (Last 72hrs: +9)</i> Source: Montana COVID-19 Dashboard (Updated 10:00 a.m.)	13,855
United States <i>New in last 72hrs: 131,604 (+less than 1% avg. growth per day)</i> Source: Johns Hopkins CSSE Global Outbreak Dashboard	7,288,166
WA	88,116
ID	42,561
WY	6,083
ND	22,694
SD	23,136



OPERATIONS

HHS begins distributing 150M rapid tests for COVID-19 virus. HHS this week [began](#) distributing 150 million rapid point-of-care tests for the COVID-19 virus that it purchased in August, which will go to states and territories (100 million), nursing homes (18 million), assisted living facilities (15 million), home health and hospice care agencies (10 million), historically black colleges and universities, and tribal nation colleges. Abbott Diagnostics plans to make up to 48 million of the [BinaxNOW Ag Card](#) antigen tests available monthly in the US in the coming weeks.

FDA updates performance data for molecular tests to diagnose COVID-19 virus.

The FDA Wednesday posted updated comparative performance [data](#) for molecular tests to diagnose the COVID-19 virus.

NIH funds program to improve COVID-19 testing in underserved, vulnerable populations. The NIH has [awarded](#) nearly \$234 million to improve COVID-19 testing for underserved and vulnerable populations, such as African Americans, American Indians/Alaskan Natives, Latinos/Latinas, Native Hawaiians, older adults, pregnant women and those who are homeless or incarcerated. The RADx Underserved Populations program will support projects with established research infrastructures and community partnerships that can swiftly implement strategies

and interventions to increase access and uptake of COVID-19 testing among these populations.

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](#).

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

HHS announces new provider relief funding; apply for the available \$20 billion beginning October 5. HHS has [announced](#) the availability of \$20 billion to hospital and providers through the third Provider Relief Fund general distribution. The

application period begins October 5 and closes November 6. Under this allocation, providers who have already received Provider Relief Fund payments will be invited to apply for additional funding that considers financial losses and changes in operating expenses caused by COVID-19. Previously ineligible providers, such as those who began practicing in 2020, will also be invited to apply.

LOGISTICS

Hospitals to begin purchasing remdesivir directly from distributor. Beginning on Thursday, American hospitals can purchase Veklury (remdesivir) directly from the drug's distributor, HHS has [announced](#). Due to limited supply, the federal government previously allocated and distributed the antiviral drug. Gilead Sciences, which makes the drug, [said](#) it is "now meeting real-time demand for Veklury in the United States and anticipates meeting global demand for Veklury in October, even in the event of potential future surges of COVID-19."

Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response alert: Increase in cyber attacks in healthcare sector. The healthcare and public health sector is seeing an increase of ransomware attacks in recent months. Healthcare facilities should take all necessary precautions to mitigate the risk of being impacted. Ransomware attacks make the victim's data inaccessible until a ransom is paid, sometimes it is never restored. See a quick reference on ransomware [here](#) and a summary of key mitigation steps [here](#). See also a [summary](#) of the most recent attacks and more thorough presentation [slides](#).

FCC extends purchase/implementation deadline for COVID-19 telehealth program. The Federal Communications Commission's Wireline Competition Bureau has [extended](#) to Dec. 31 the deadline for recipients of COVID-19 Telehealth Program funding to purchase and implement eligible telehealth devices and services to address the COVID-19 pandemic. The original deadline was earlier this week.

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](#)

###