



Office of the Regional Director

HHS REGION 4

HHS Region 4 Health News – June 19, 2020

For the most current information about COVID-19, please follow CDC on social media and [sign up for the newsletter](#) to receive weekly emails about the COVID-19 outbreak.

HHS awards \$107.2 million to Grow and Train the Health Workforce

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), is announcing awards totaling \$107.2 million to 310 recipients to increase the health workforce in rural and underserved communities. Recipients across 45 states and U.S. territories received funding to improve the quality, distribution and diversity of health professionals serving across the country.

"Supporting a strong health workforce is essential to improving health in rural and underserved communities," said HHS Secretary Alex Azar. "We've seen stark disparities in health and healthcare access contribute to the burden of the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of the Trump Administration's work to address health disparities, these grants provide support for the training of healthcare workers in rural and underserved communities."

These programs provide financial and professional support to physicians, faculty, dentists, nurses and students as they pursue careers in health care settings. Awardees will be able to develop and retain clinicians in high-need areas to meet the vital health needs of the most disadvantaged communities.

For funding details and to read the entire press release, please visit the HHS website [here](#).

This week we are excited to share that The Partnership Center is supporting HHS and FEMA's efforts to [make face coverings widely available in order to limit the spread of COVID-19](#). The face coverings, produced and delivered in partnership with USPS and the National Council of Textile Organizations, are being made available to community-based organizations **at no cost** (and while supplies last). Please [click here](#) for information on the face coverings and how to order. A few things to note:

- Face coverings are 100% Cotton Jersey, bind around face and ears, and are treated with a 0.5% OWG Agion AMB-10 Antimicrobial (contains silver and copper, which

- will help to prevent the growth of viruses and germs. Washable up to 15 times). Adult One-size fits all.
- They **do not replace the N95** face mask used in healthcare settings and should not be used when caring for those with COVID-19. They are intended to expand the community's capacity to limit the spread of COVID-19.
 - The face coverings come in cartons of **500 masks per carton**. (Minimum order is one carton) Larger orders may be expedited more quickly.
 - They are not to be sold and are to be used within US States/Territories/Tribal Nations.
 - Delivery locations must be [USPS deliverable](#) addresses.
 - Allow 10-15 days to process your order. Shipments will vary in arrival time. Please be patient.
 - See also the CDC's [Information About Your Cloth Face Covering](#) as a user guide.

COVID-19 Related News

[CDC Guidance for Large Community Events and Mass Gatherings](#)

CDC updated its guidance for [large community events and mass gatherings](#) to plan, prepare, and respond to COVID-19 and considerations to take before gathering.

[Checklist for Communities of Faith](#)

Communities of faith are encouraged to use this checklist to protect the health of their staff and congregants during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. For detailed information, see CDC's [Interim Guidance for Communities of Faith](#).

[HHS Announces Enhanced Provider Portal, Relief Fund Payments for Safety Net Hospitals, Medicaid & CHIP Providers](#)

In an effort to support Medicaid providers serving the most vulnerable populations, including those with low incomes and many minority patients HHS announced, [three new distributions](#) through the [Provider Relief Fund](#). The agency expects to distribute approximately \$15 billion to eligible providers that participate in state Medicaid and CHIP programs as well as the distribution of \$10 billion in funds to safety net hospitals. An enhanced [Provider Relief Fund Payment Portal](#) will allow eligible Medicaid and CHIP providers to report their annual patient revenue to help determine their payment.

[COVID-19 Forecasts for the U.S.](#)

Last week's national ensemble forecast suggests that there will likely be between 124,000 and 140,000 total reported COVID-19 deaths by July 4th.

[Coronavirus Q&A With Anthony Fauci, MD](#)

With the protests and the pandemic colliding, fears have arisen that new COVID-19 outbreaks could soon follow. Dr. Fauci discusses the possibility of protest-related infections, COVID-19 vaccine development, "immunity passports" and other subjects during a *JAMA* interview in early June. Here is an [edited version](#) of the conversation.

[FDA Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) FAQ Updated](#)

To see the most recent updates from the Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) visit their [Coronavirus Disease 2019](#) webpage and review their [updated FAQ](#) for general public and consumer audiences.

Upcoming Virtual Learning Opportunities

[Forward Together: A Virtual Symposium on Improving Access to Effective Care for People Experiencing Homelessness, Serious Mental Illness, and Substance Use Disorders](#)

Thurs., June 18, 2020 10:30 a.m. – 4:45 p.m. EDT

Join SAMHSA's Homeless and Housing Resource Network for a day of learning from nearly two dozen national experts, policy makers, and providers in large plenaries and smaller concurrent sessions. All those working at the intersection of serious mental illness, substance use, or co-occurring disorders and homelessness, will find engaging sessions. Join for the whole summit or drop in to only those sessions that most appeal to you. Read the full agenda and register [here](#).

[Team Transition! Mentoring Youth in the Transition from Foster Care to Adult Life](#)

Thurs., June 18, 2020, 1:00 – 2:15 p.m., EDT, Register [here](#).

The transition to adulthood represents a critical moment in the lives of youth involved in foster care. This webinar, presented by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), will explore the roles that mentors can play in promoting a successful transition, conditions under which relationships can thrive, and considerations of mentoring as part of a healthy ecosystem of services and supports.

[Building Skills for Cross-Cultural Communication and Resilience During COVID-19](#)

Mon., June 22, 2020, 6:00 p.m., EDT, Register [here](#).

This workshop explores stereotypes, biases, and disparities related to COVID-19. Participants will gain skills to recognize and interrupt bias in a compassionate manner using tools for cross-cultural communication.

[Launch of Rural Community Toolbox Website](#)

Wed., June 24th, 2020, 3:00 p.m., EDT, Register [here](#).

Join the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and Senior Administration Officials for a virtual launch of the Rural Community Toolbox website, a new resource for rural communities that will serve as a clearinghouse for funding and resources in over a dozen different federal agencies to help rural leaders build strong, healthy, and drug-free communities.

[Recovery LIVE! Supporting the Resilience of Black Men: Culturally Affirming and Responsive Approaches to Engagement, Treatment, and Recovery](#)

Thurs., June 25, 2020, 2-3:00 p.m., EDT, Register [here](#).

SAMHSA invites you to join national experts who will highlight current research and describe best practices and promising strategies for supporting Black men with mental illness, substance use disorder (SUD), and in their recovery efforts.

Grants and Funding Opportunities

[The Title X Family Services Program Grant Awards](#)

The Office of Population Affairs (OPA) is [accepting grant applications](#) for the Title X Family Services program and evaluation research related to the Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) program. The intent of the grant awards is to expand voluntary family planning services in areas that are currently unserved and/or underserved by the Title X network.

[Title V Competitive Sexual Risk Avoidance Education](#)

HHS-2020-ACF-ACYF-TS-1821 Funds are available under the [Title V Competitive Sexual Risk Avoidance Education \(CSRAE\)](#) Program. The goals of CSRAE are to empower participants to make healthy decisions, and provide tools and resources to prevent pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and youth engagement in other risky behaviors. **Closing date: July 2, 2020.**

[Grants and Loans from USDA Supporting Rural Communities](#)

[Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program](#)

Provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities and services in rural areas. Examples of essential facilities include Health care facilities such as hospitals, medical clinics, dental clinics, nursing homes or assisted living facilities. [Program Fact Sheet](#) Status – Open/accepting applications.

[Rural Community Development Initiative Grants \(RCDI\)](#)

Grants are awarded to help non-profit housing and community development organizations, low-income rural communities and federally recognized tribes support housing, community facilities and community and economic development projects in rural areas. Currently Open: [Fact Sheet](#)

[Rural Development Single Family Direct Housing loans](#)

This program assists low- and very-low-income applicants obtain decent, safe, and sanitary housing in eligible rural areas by providing payment assistance to increase an applicant's repayment ability. [Fact Sheet](#) **Currently Open.**

[USDA Rural Business Development Grants](#)

This program is designed to provide technical assistance and training for small rural businesses. Grants must be used on projects to benefit small and emerging businesses in rural areas as specified in the grant application. Uses may include: Distance adult learning for job training and advancement, Rural transportation improvement, Community economic development, and Technology-based economic development. **Currently Open.**

Previously mentioned (please refer to our former Weekly's for more prior funding notices)

[Fatherhood - Family-focused, Interconnected, Resilient, and Essential \(Fatherhood FIRE\)](#)

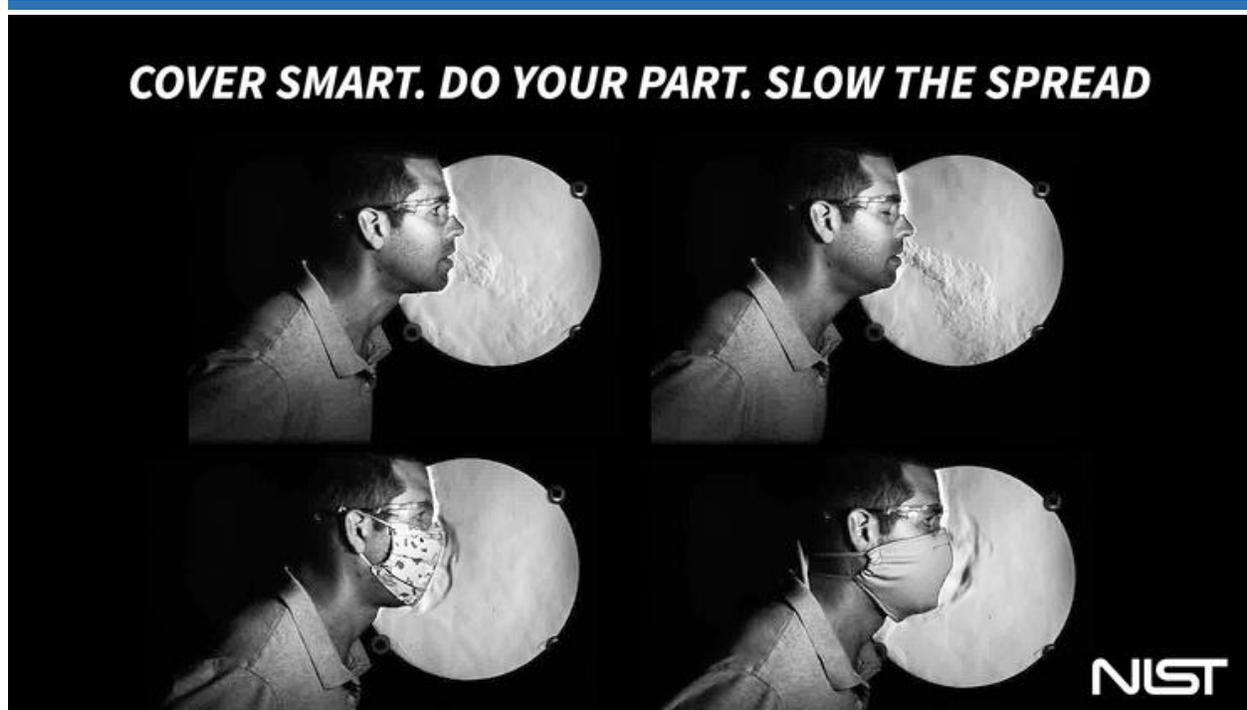
HHS-2020-ACF-OFA-ZJ-1846 - Fatherhood FIRE will support projects designed for adult fathers who are age 18 and older. Fathers will include those in the general population (or "community fathers"), as well as fathers who are currently incarcerated and are returning, or have returned, to their families and communities following incarceration. **Closing date: July 1, 2020.**

[Relationships, Education, Advancement, and Development for Youth for Life \(READY4Life\)](#)

HHS-2020-ACF-OFA-ZD-1838 - The READY4Life grants will be targeted exclusively to youth, for projects designed to support healthy relationships and marriage, including the value of marriage in future family formation and skills-based healthy relationship and marriage education. Additionally, grants will support activities including parenting (for young fathers and mothers, as applicable), financial management, job and career advancement, and other activities. **Closing date: July 1, 2020.**

[Family, Relationship, and Marriage Education Works - Adults \(FRAMEWorks\)](#)

HHS-2020-ACF-OFA-ZB-1817 - The FRAMEWorks Program will fund projects designed for adult individuals or adult couples. Projects include curriculum-based skills development and services; marriage and relationship education/skills (MRES); pre-marital education; marriage enhancement; divorce reduction activities; marriage mentoring; public advertising campaigns; and activities to reduce the disincentives to marriage. Applicants will be encouraged to also include services to promote employment and job and career advancement. **Closing date: July 1, 2020.**



[Cover smart! Do your part. Slow the spread.](#)



CMS Regional Office

CMS COVID-19 Stakeholder Engagement Calls – Week of 6/15/20

CMS hosts varied recurring stakeholder engagement sessions to share information related to the agency's response to COVID-19. These sessions are open to members of the healthcare community and are intended to provide updates, share best practices among peers, and offer attendees an opportunity to ask questions of CMS and other subject matter experts.

Call details are below. Conference lines are limited so we highly encourage you to join via audio webcast, either on your computer or smartphone web browser. You are welcome to share this invitation with your colleagues and professional networks. These calls are not intended for the press.

Calls recordings and transcripts are posted on the CMS podcast page at:

<https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Outreach/OpenDoorForums/PodcastAndTranscripts>

CMS COVID-19 Office Hours Calls (Tuesdays at 5:00 – 6:00 PM Eastern)

Office Hour Calls provide an opportunity for hospitals, health systems, and providers to ask questions of agency officials regarding CMS's temporary actions that empower local hospitals and healthcare systems to:

- Increase Hospital Capacity – CMS Hospitals Without Walls;
- Rapidly Expand the Healthcare Workforce;
- Put Patients Over Paperwork; and
- Further Promote Telehealth in Medicare

This week's *Office Hours*:

Tuesday, June 16th at 5:00 – 6:00 PM Eastern

Toll Free Attendee Dial In: 833-614-0820; Access Passcode: 4527348

Audio Webcast link: <https://protect2.fireeye.com/url?k=0f1c68b2-53484199-0f1c598d-0cc47a6d17cc-9ef47bc980d77f7f&u=https://protect2.fireeye.com/url?k=5b097cf5-075d6589-5b094dca-0cc47adc5fa2-a36963157ab9f1a5&u=https://engage.vevent.com/rt/cms2/index.jsp?seid=2176>

Lessons from the Front Lines: COVID-19 (Fridays at 12:30 – 2:00 PM Eastern)

Lessons from the Front Lines calls are a joint effort between CMS Administrator Seema Verma, FDA Commissioner Stephen Hahn, MD, and the White House Coronavirus Task Force. Physicians and other clinicians are invited to share their experience, ideas, strategies, and insights with one another related to their COVID-19 response. There is an opportunity to ask questions of presenters.

This week's *Lessons from the Front Lines*:

Friday, June 19th at 12:30 – 2:00 PM Eastern

Toll Free Attendee Dial-In: 833-614-0820; Access Code: 2258722

Web Link: <https://protect2.fireeye.com/url?k=c9870c6d-95d32546-c9873d52-0cc47a6d17cc-850db0e56904a022&u=https://protect2.fireeye.com/url?k=5290c7b7-0ec4decb-5290f688-0cc47adc5fa2-aab7a40991a3db3b&u=https://engage.vevent.com/rt/cms2/index.jsp?seid=2203>

To keep up with the important work the White House Task Force is doing in response to COVID-19 click here: <https://protect2.fireeye.com/url?k=36fa2226-6aae0b0d-36fa1319-0cc47a6d17cc-2d06c219f858d641&u=http://www.coronavirus.gov/>. For information specific to CMS, please visit the [Current Emergencies Website](#).



CMS Regional Office

In Case You Missed It: CMS Released Weekly Update of Nursing Home COVID-19 Data as of June 7, 2020

CMS Released Weekly Update of Nursing Home COVID-19 Data as of June 7, 2020

In case you missed it, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) posted the second set of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) nursing home data today available here: <https://data.cms.gov/stories/s/bkwz-xpvg>

The data will be updated weekly going forward; for more information on nursing homes, including a link to the COVID-19 nursing home data, visit [Nursing Home Compare](#).

CMS also released additional frequently asked questions on the nursing home COVID-19 data available here: <https://data.cms.gov/api/views/b62a-ieuz/files/e883f38f-77da-4f58-975f-390b858ccf9f?filename=NH%20COVID-19%20data%20FAQ%206-18-2020.pdf>

CMS Regional Office



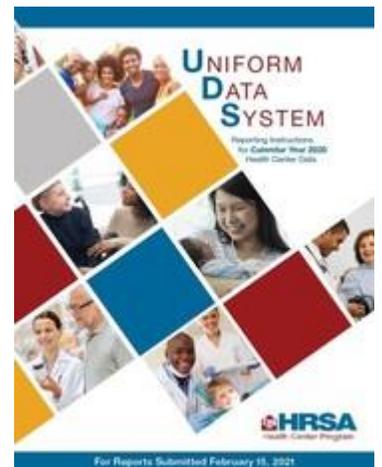
Primary Health Care Digest

2020 Uniform Data System Manual Now Available

The [2020 Uniform Data System \(UDS\) Manual](#) provides health centers with detailed reporting instructions to support calendar year 2020 UDS reports and each of the required data tables related to patients, operations, and clinical performance. 2020 UDS data reporting will take place between January 1, and February 15, 2021.

Key reporting changes include:

- Addition of HIV screening measure (CMS349v2);
- Addition of prescription for Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) International Classification of Diseases (ICD) 10 codes and Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes; and
- Revision of Appendix D to capture information on prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs) and social determinants of health.



Given the historical impact of COVID-19, additional reporting changes, include COVID-19 ICD-10 and CPT clinical codes, as well as codes for acute respiratory illness due to COVID-19.



Knowing that Together We Can End the HIV Epidemic

National HIV Testing Day is Saturday, June 27, and this year's theme is "Knowing." For health centers, that means keeping patients in-the-know about HIV testing, as well as prevention and treatment options. [Get resources to help promote National HIV Testing Day.](#)

[See our bulletin about supplementing HIV prevention efforts](#) with self-testing during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, the FDA released a [fact sheet about the OraQuick In-Home test.](#)

Interim Guidance for Immunization Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused health care providers to change operations. Ensuring that immunization services are maintained or reinitiated is essential for protecting individuals and communities from vaccine-preventable diseases and outbreaks and reducing the burden of respiratory illness during the upcoming influenza season.

The CDC's recently released "[Interim Guidance for Immunization Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)" can help your health center plan for safe vaccine administration during the COVID-19 pandemic. CDC will continue updating this guidance as the pandemic evolves.



Highlights include:

- Considerations for routine delivery of all recommended vaccinations for children, adolescents, and adults, including pregnant women.
- General practices for the safe delivery of vaccination services, including considerations for alternative vaccination sites.
- Strategies for catch up vaccinations.

Health centers play a critical role in protecting the most vulnerable patients from vaccine-preventable diseases. We encourage you to take every opportunity to educate both parents and patients. Research shows the strongest predictor of whether a patient gets vaccinated is a recommendation from their health care professional.



Jump To: [COVID-19](#) | [Substance Use Disorder & Mental Health](#) | [HIV](#) | [Workforce](#) | [Men's Health Month](#) | [Additional Resources](#)

What's New

New Fiscal Year 2020 Cooperative Agreements and Training and Technical Assistance for Health Centers

Last week, HRSA announced the new fiscal year (FY) 2020 awards to [Primary Care Associations \(PCAs\)](#) and [National Training and Technical Assistance Partners \(NTTAPs\)](#)* to support and expand training and technical assistance (T/TA) for health centers. (*These were formerly called National Cooperative Agreements or NCAs.)

As a part of these awards, PCAs serving the [seven states](#) identified in Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America as having a high rural HIV burden received funds to enhance T/TA activities to support health centers' HIV prevention efforts in their states. All PCAs received workforce funding to enhance workforce T/TA activities to support the Health Professions Education and Training initiative at health centers in the PCA's state/region.

HRSA also funded one new type of NTTAP, intimate partner violence, which was awarded to Futures Without Violence.

The following are TA sessions for NTTAP and PCA awardees:

Technical Assistance & Training



[Visit the training calendar to learn details about or register for events.](#)

Through June 23

Health Information Technology, Evaluation, and Quality (HITEQ) Center Highlights: Using the EHR for Routine HIV Screening

Hosted by HITEQ, a HRSA-funded NTTAP
Tuesday, June 16
2:00-3:00 p.m. ET
[Register here](#)

HRSA Fiscal and Grants Management Best Practices for Health Centers

Wednesday, June 17
12:30-1:30 p.m. ET

New Project Period Webinar for NTTAP Awardees

Thursday, July 2

1:00-2:30 p.m. ET

[Join the day of the session](#)

Call-in: 800-779-5383

Passcode: 4213046

View the [TA webpage for NTTAP awardees](#).

PCA New Project Period Kick-off Call

Thursday, July 16

2:00-3:30 p.m. ET

We will email connection information to participants.

View the [TA webpage for PCA awardees](#).

Did you miss it?

Last week, [HRSA also awarded \\$8 million to PCAs and NTTAPs](#) to provide critical support and expertise to advance health centers' ability to prevent, prepare, and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Visit the [Strategic Partners webpage](#) to request T/TA for your health center.

Federal Tort Claims Act Health Center Program Updates and Important Reminders

Applications for medical malpractice coverage under the Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA) are open in HRSA's Electronic Handbooks (EHBs). All health center and volunteer health professional redeeming applications for FTCA coverage for calendar year 2021 are due by 11:59 p.m. ET on Monday, July 13.

As a reminder, HRSA-funded health centers must register with the [National Practitioner Data Bank \(NPDB\)](#). In order to query or report to the NPDB, a health center must first apply to access NPDB information.

HRSA guidance for both new applications (deeming) and renewal of existing coverage (redeeming) for health center staff is available in [Program Assistance Letter \(PAL\) 2020-02](#). Details about coverage for health center volunteer health professionals are available in [PAL 2020-03](#). The HRSA website has more details about the [application process](#), including a recorded webinar.

Need application assistance? [Contact Health Center Program Support online](#) or by phone: 877-464-4772, option 1.

Less than One Month Left

Health centers that have Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) recognition by Wednesday, July 1, 2020, may be eligible to receive the 2020 Health Center PCMH Recognition Quality Award. [View the table of health centers with valid PCMH recognition status and the number of sites with PCMH recognition](#). If your health center serves multiple states,



[Join the day of the session](#)

Call-in: 888-566-7701

Passcode: 9747226

OR

Tuesday, June 23

1:00-2:00 p.m. ET

[Join the day of the session](#)

Call-in: 888-628-9525

Passcode: 9747226

[Submit a question ahead of time](#).

Returning to Primary Care: Diabetes Care During a Public Health Crisis

Hosted by NACHC, a HRSA-funded NTTAP

Part 2:

Wednesday, June 17

1:00-2:00 p.m. ET

[Register here](#)

Part 3:

Wednesday, June 24

1:00-2:00 p.m. ET

[Register here](#)

Leadership Office Hour – Reflections on Alternative Scenarios for Community Health Centers to Move Beyond COVID-19

Hosted by NACHC, a HRSA-funded NTTAP

Wednesday, June 17

2:00-3:00 p.m. ET

[Register here](#)

A Year On: Revisiting PrEP for HIV Prevention

Hosted by the National Health Care for the Homeless Council, a HRSA-funded NTTAP

Wednesday, June 17

2:00-3:00 p.m. ET

[Register here](#)

Workforce Grand Rounds: Combating Healthcare Provider Burnout in Clinical Settings

Wednesday, June 17

2:00-3:30 p.m. ET

[Register here](#)

please be certain to check the number of sites for EACH state to calculate the total number of PCMH-recognized sites in HRSA's EHBs.

- If your health center's PCMH recognition is accurate, no action is needed.
- If it is inaccurate, please **submit an update to your PCMH recognition information via the EHBs no later than Sunday, July 5**. [View instructions for submitting an update](#), including the acceptable forms of required documentation.

If you have questions, please [contact us](#). To make sure you receive our reply email, add 'BPHCAAnswers@hrsa.gov' to your address book.

Precision Medicine: All of Us Research Program Beta-Test New Data Platform

As an important step in the effort to accelerate new scientific discoveries, the All of Us Research Program at the National Institutes of Health has [launched beta-testing for its Researcher Workbench](#). Investigators can now begin using the initial dataset and tools in studies and submit feedback to improve the platform. [This early version of Researcher Workbench](#) includes data from nearly 225,000 of the program's first participants. 80% of All of Us participants are from groups that have been historically underrepresented in biomedical research. All of Us is a key partner in HRSA's Advancing Precision Medicine Initiative.

COVID-19

Frequently Asked Questions

Today we updated our [COVID-19 FAQ webpage](#) adding:

- *What are the CMS emergency preparedness requirements for health centers?*
- *What CMS flexibilities are available to health centers that open temporary sites due to the COVID-19 public health emergency?*
- *May health centers contribute COVID-19 testing data to sentinel surveillance systems?*

We also continually update our [page for coronavirus-related funding FAQs](#). The resources and links on our [COVID-19 Information for Health Centers and Partners webpage](#) now include links to Provider Relief Fund FAQs/resources and to recent Today with Macrae sessions.

CMS Guidance for Patients Considering In-Person, Non-Emergency Treatment

CMS released a [guide for patients considering in-person, non-emergency treatment](#). Many health care systems and patients have postponed non-emergency, in-person care during the pandemic. CMS provides these recommendations to ensure that non-emergency health care resumes safely

General Considerations Under Federal Law/FQHC Payment Protections

Hosted by NACHC, a HRSA-funded NTTAP Part of the Accountable Care Academy
Wednesday, June 17
3:00-4:00 p.m. ET
[Visit NACHC's site for registration information](#)

Forward Together: A Virtual Symposium on Improving Access to Effective Care for People Experiencing Homelessness, Serious Mental Illness, and Substance Use Disorders

Hosted by SAMHSA's Homeless and Housing Resource Network
Thursday, June 18
10:30 a.m.-4:45 p.m. ET
[Register here](#)
****CME Available****

Using Data to Identify Workforce Training and TA Needs

Part of the STAR² Center's Primary Care Association/Health Center Controlled Network's Workforce Professional Development Series
Thursday, June 18
2:00-3:00 p.m. ET
[Register here](#)

Testing for COVID-19 in Homeless Shelters & Encampments: Discussing CDC's New Health Department Guidance & the National Health Care for the Homeless Council's Newest Issue Brief

Hosted by the National Health Care for the Homeless Council, a HRSA-funded NTTAP
Friday, June 19
1:00-2:00 p.m. ET
[Register here](#)

Virtual COVID-19 Conference: Opening Plenary Session

Hosted by Northwest Regional PCA
Friday, June 19
3:00-4:30 p.m. ET
[Register here for the opening plenary](#)

UDS Mapper Advanced Topics: Using the UDS Mapper for Service Area Mapping

Monday, June 22

(encouraging telehealth for patients with high COVID-19 risk) and that patients are receiving needed in-person treatment that may have been postponed due to the public health emergency.

CDC Guidance on Telehealth During and Beyond COVID-19

[CDC's guidance](#) provides considerations for using telehealth services to provide virtual care during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. Health centers are specifically mentioned in the "Safeguards for Telehealth Services" section.

HRSA Fiscal and Grants Management Best Practices for Health Centers

BPHC and HRSA's Office of Federal Assistance Management (OFAM) will host two sessions of a webinar highlighting key fiscal aspects to provide health centers with strategies to ensure compliance and properly manage all HRSA funding including each of your HRSA health center COVID-19 awards (H8C, H8D and H8E).

OFAM speakers will share best practices for managing your portfolio of HRSA funding and guidance on how to ensure all costs are allowable and support each respective grant and will discuss these key items:

- Examples of adequate supporting documentation for allowable costs under the health center and fiscal year 2020 COVID-19 awards.
- Budget and fiscal requirement reminders.
- Financial management system best practices (e.g., separation of funding by source, internal controls, etc.).

Both sessions will cover the same information and will end with a question and answer session. [Submit a question ahead of time.](#)

Wednesday, June 17
12:30-1:30 p.m. ET
[Join the day of the session](#)
Call-in: 888-566-7701
Passcode: 9747226

OR

Tuesday, June 23
1:00-2:00 p.m. ET
[Join the day of the session](#)
Call-in: 888-628-9525
Passcode: 9747226

COVID-19 Survey and User Guide

As a reminder, the survey you received on Friday, June 12, is due by 11:59

2:00-3:00 p.m. ET

[Register here](#)

Taking Care of the Compassionate Care Team: Conversations about Moral Distress and Moral Injury

Hosted by NACHC, with funding from SAMHSA

Tuesday, June 23
Noon-1:00 p.m. ET

[Register here](#)

Manager Training for Employee Engagement

Hosted by the STAR² Center (part of The Association of Clinicians for the Underserved, a HRSA-funded NTTAP)

Part 1:
Tuesday, June 23
1:00-2:00 p.m. ET

Part 2:
Tuesday, June 30
1:00-2:00 p.m. ET

[Register here](#)

Upcoming

Partnership Opportunities for Health Centers, EnVision Centers, and Public Housing Agencies

Hosted by the National Center for Health in Public Housing, a HRSA-funded NTTAP

Wednesday, June 24
1:00-2:00 p.m. ET

[Register here](#)

Rejuvenate Consumer Leadership: Lessons from the Updated Consumer Advisory Board Manual

Hosted by the National Health Care for the Homeless Council, a HRSA-funded NTTAP

Wednesday, June 24
3:00-4:00 p.m. ET

[Register here](#)

Reimagining Care: Reimagining Care: Reducing Talent Burnout & Increasing Workforce Resiliency

Hosted by NACHC, a HRSA-funded NTTAP
Thursday, June 25

p.m. ET today. We recently created a [User Guide](#) to assist you in completing the survey. [See the bulletin](#) we sent last Friday discussing the survey link.

THANK YOU to the health centers and look-alikes that complete these weekly surveys! You're helping us track health center capacity and COVID-19's impact on health center operations, patients, and staff. The survey results give us a better understanding of training and technical assistance, funding, and other health center resource needs.

Reimagining Care: Reducing Talent Burnout & Increasing Workforce Resiliency

The "Reimagining Care" series from the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC), a HRSA-funded NTTAP, focuses on how health centers will continue to lead the primary health care industry through flexibility and innovation in a post-COVID-19 world.

The next session will offer guidance on reducing burnout in a time of increasing stress. Subject matter experts will provide promising practices with "real world" perspectives, guiding tips, and resources to help meet the current and future demands of delivery of care.

Thursday, June 25
1:00-2:00 p.m. ET

[Visit NACHC's website to register or view past recordings](#)

Additional "Reimagining Care" sessions are planned for 1:00 p.m. ET on July 9, July 23, and August 6.



Many federal organizations, HRSA-funded NTTAPs, and other partners are holding COVID-19-related webinars. Our [Technical Assistance Calendar](#) lists more of them and includes descriptions and registration information.

Resources

- COVID-19 data from [HRSA-funded health centers](#) and [look-alikes](#)
- [COVID-19 Workforce Virtual Toolkit: Resources for Healthcare Decision-Makers Responding to COVID-19 Workforce Concerns](#)
- [HRSA Coronavirus webpage](#)
- [HHS Coronavirus Updates webpage](#)
- [Health Center Resource Clearinghouse](#)

1:00-2:00 p.m. ET

[Visit NACHC's website to register or view past recordings](#)

Additional sessions are planned for 1:00 p.m. ET on July 9, July 23, and August 6.

Today with Macrae: Health Center Program Updates

Monday, June 29

2:00-3:00 p.m. ET

Access details coming soon

New Project Period Webinar for NTTAP Awardees

Thursday, July 2

1:00-2:30 p.m. ET

[Join the day of the session](#)

Call-in: 800-779-5383

Passcode: 4213046

Dental Sealants in the COVID-19 World

Hosted by the National Network for Oral Health Access, a HRSA-funded NTTAP

Monday, July 6

2:00-3:00 p.m. ET

[Register here](#)

****1.0 CDE available****

PCA New Project Period Kick-Off Call

Thursday, July 16

2:00-3:30 p.m. ET

HRSA will email connection information to participants.

Webinars are hosted by HRSA unless otherwise noted.

Strategies to Manage Financial Operations During COVID-19 Response and Recovery

NACHC is producing a [five-part podcast series](#) to help health centers manage their fiscal solvency during COVID-19 response and recovery. Podcast topics include managing your health center's cash flow, paycheck protection, the Provider Relief Fund, grants management, and staffing. The first three sessions are available now:

- Podcast 1: Staffing Considerations
- Podcast 2: Provider Relief Fund, CARES Act, Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act
- JUST ADDED: Podcast 3: Funding Streams and the SBA Paycheck Protection Program Loan

NIH Research Opportunity: Digital Intervention During COVID-19

[NIH supports digital health intervention research](#) seeking to improve how we identify, treat, or provide services for health conditions secondary to the COVID-19 pandemic for NIH-designated health disparity populations and those with medical or social vulnerabilities (e.g., residents of chronic care facilities, community-dwelling older adults, pregnant women, homeless, incarcerated, health care staff on the front lines of pandemic, and workers in essential business operations).

Get My Payment Tool

The IRS launched the Get My Payment tool on April 17. This tool will provide you the status of your payment, including the date it is scheduled to be deposited into your bank account or mailed to you. [Get additional information on the Economic Stimulus Payment.](#)



Substance Use Disorder & Mental Health

Join a Community of Practice to Help Your Health Center Develop a Safe and Effective Opioid Prescribing Strategy

Does your health center have a sound strategy for assessing and treating people with chronic pain who are at risk for opioid use disorder and substance use disorder (SUD)? Participants will develop skills to create an infrastructure to support the expansion of alternatives to pain management within your health center.

To apply, please create an account on [the HRSA Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health Technical Assistance's website](#).

Webinar Recording Available: HIV PrEP for Patients with SUD

The HRSA-funded National Clinician Consultation Center recently held a webinar

to help health centers overcome pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) implementation challenges, assess PrEP eligibility, and identify strategies for addressing side effect and adherence concerns. Speakers covered:

- National trends of PrEP use among different populations at risk for HIV, including persons with SUD.
- Recent updates on new PrEP medications and dosing strategies, and unique considerations that may arise when counseling persons with SUD.
- Strategies for health centers to increase PrEP education, initiation, and persistence.

[View the webinar recording and resources.](#)

Notice of Funding Opportunity for Rural Communities Opioid Response Program-Planning

HRSA will make approximately 50 awards of \$200,000 each to rural communities to enhance capacity to address SUD, including opioid use disorder. Over the course of an 18-month period of performance, grant recipients will conduct a series of planning activities, engage multi-sector consortiums, and participate in the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP)-Planning learning collaborative. Applicant organizations may be located in an urban or rural areas; however, all activities supported by this program must exclusively target HRSA-designated rural areas (per the [Rural Health Grants Eligibility Analyzer](#)). [Learn more or apply by Monday, July 13.](#)

HIV

Ready, Set, PrEP Updates

In light of the ongoing COVID-19 response, HHS is adapting the Ready, Set, PrEP program to help ensure patient retention in ongoing PrEP care and adherence to PrEP HIV prevention medications, and to reduce the burden on the nation's health care providers and health care systems. This includes special override requests for 90-day fills in some cases and automatic extensions of eligibility. [Read the full announcement.](#)

Workforce

TOMORROW: Latest Tools to Combat Health Care Provider Burnout in Clinical Settings

[Workforce Grand Rounds Webinar Series: Combating Healthcare Provider Burnout in Clinical Settings.](#) BHW's Deputy Associate Administrator, Dr. Torey Mack, providing a federal perspective.



Wednesday, June 17
2:00-3:30 p.m. ET



National Health Service Corps New Site Application Open

Health care facilities can now apply to be approved as a National Health Service Corps (NHSC) site. Eligible locations include health care sites that provide outpatient, ambulatory and primary health care services (medical, dental, and behavioral health) to

populations residing in high-need urban and rural areas. Additional eligible site types include facilities providing general SUD treatment, a medication-assisted treatment (MAT) program, or an opioid treatment program. Applications are due Tuesday, July 21. [Learn more about the NHSC new site application.](#)

Men's Health Month

June is [Men's Health Month](#). Did you know that men make up 75% of patients waiting for a heart transplant, and about 60% of those waiting for a kidney or liver transplant? Although over half of deceased donors in 2019 were men, more organs are needed to meet the demand, especially since female organs are often too small for larger men (and women) in need of transplants. Celebrate Men's Health Month by encouraging all men to sign up as organ, eye, and tissue donors at



<https://protect2.fireeye.com/url?k=46c250fb-1a964987-46c261c4-0cc47adc5fa2-bb8cc73ae31a21c9&u=http://www.organdonor.gov/> or <https://protect2.fireeye.com/url?k=2b069068-77528914-2b06a157-0cc47adc5fa2-24e78f7e7ead8b73&u=http://www.donaciondeorganos.gov/>.

Additional Resources

Webinar Series: Accountable Care Academy

NACHC's Accountable Care Academy focuses on the fundamental considerations for risk-based contracts and how to prepare health centers for participation in arrangements with risk. [Visit NACHC's website for more information or to register for sessions](#) (find this series under "Upcoming Operations Management Webinars.")

In case you missed it: [Visit the Primary Health Care Digest archive.](#)

Do you forward the Digest to others? Encourage them to [subscribe](#).

June 18, 2020

What's New

[New Funding Opportunity: Rural Communities Opioid Response Program-Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome \(RCORP-NAS\) – July 20.](#) The Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) will be making a \$15 million investment, over three years, for approximately 30 grants to reduce the incidence and impact of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS). Over a three-year project period, grant recipients will conduct a combination of prevention, treatment, and recovery activities to improve systems of care, family supports, and social determinants of health. While the focus of RCORP-NAS is primarily opioid use disorder (OUD), applicants may also choose to address additional substances of concern or substance use disorders (SUDs) among pregnant women, mothers, and women of childbearing age who have a history of, or who are at risk for, SUD/OUD and their children, families, and caregivers who reside in rural areas. Applicant organizations may be located in an urban or rural area; however, all activities supported by the program must exclusively occur in [HRSA-designated rural areas](#). See the Events section below for an upcoming webinar for applicants.

[The Hidden Pandemic Behind COVID-19.](#) Cases of domestic violence, child abuse and sexual exploitation in the time of COVID-19 appear to have risen in emergency rooms and health clinics across the country since March. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has published a 4-page document entitled [Intimate Partner Violence and Child Abuse Considerations During COVID-19](#) with hyperlinks to relevant SAMHSA and non-SAMHSA resources. If you would like to view the HRSA webinar on this subject, access the recording by [registering with this link](#). This will redirect you to the recording where you can watch the full session and download the slide presentation and resources shared. For audio replay, please use the line 866-360-7719, with passcode 52020.

[HRSA on Child Poverty and Mental Health.](#) A new study published in the *Journal of Children and Poverty* finds an association between family economic hardship and child mental health conditions. Researchers at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) based the study on data from the 2016 and 2017 National Surveys of Children's Health, which is a nationally representative survey of U.S. Children ages 0 to 17.

[#WellChildWednesdays @HRSAgov.](#) Last month, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention assessed [the impact of the pandemic on pediatric vaccinations](#) and found a noticeable decline beginning in the week after the national emergency declaration. To help remind parents and caregivers of the need to protect children from preventable disease such as measles, the [Maternal and Child Health Bureau](#) at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) will be releasing social media messages with the hashtag **#WellChildWednesdays**. Message will address well visits, immunizations, adolescent and young adult care, and nutrition, safety, and mental health as topics to be discussed with pediatric providers.

[CDC: Trends in Occupational Lung Diseases.](#) In its *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) examined deaths due to pneumoconiosis – preventable occupational lung disease caused by inhaling dust particles such as coal or mineral dust. From 1968 to 2000, death rates for all pneumoconioses decreased, though preventable deaths continue to occur.

[Federal Office of Rural Health Policy FAQs for COVID-19.](#) A set of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) from our grantees and stakeholders, updated regularly.

[COVID-19 FAQs and Funding for HRSA Programs.](#) Find all funding and frequently asked questions for programs administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

[CDC COVID-19 Updates.](#) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides daily updates and guidance, and ongoing [Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity \(COCA\)](#).

[Confirmed COVID-19 Cases, Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Counties.](#) The RUPRI Center for Rural Health Policy Analysis provides up-to-date data and maps on rural and urban confirmed cases throughout the United States. [An animated map shows the progression of cases beginning January 21.](#)

[Rural Response to Coronavirus Disease 2019.](#) The Rural Health Information Hub has created a guide to help you learn about activities underway to address COVID-19.

Funding and Opportunities

Please note that many deadlines for Federal funding opportunities have been extended. See [Approaching Deadlines](#) section below.

[IHS Tribal Forensic Healthcare Training](#) – Ongoing. The Indian Health Service (IHS) provides clinical training courses, live and online, related to the identification, collection, and preservation of medical forensic evidence obtained during the treatment of victims of sexual and domestic violence. Participants may be medical professionals in hospitals, health clinics, and health stations within the Indian health system.

[USDA Technical Assistance for Healthy Food Financing Initiative](#) – Ongoing. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides technical assistance for early stage healthy food access projects in underserved areas with a focus on management, financial health, and operations. Eligible applicants include public, private, and nonprofit organizations.

[USDA Rural Business Development Grants](#) – Ongoing. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides grants for projects that benefit small and emerging businesses in rural areas. Small means that the business has fewer than 50 new workers and less than \$1 million in gross revenue. Eligible applicants are rural public and private, nonprofit entities including institutions of higher education and Federally-recognized tribes.

Rural Health Research

Research in this section is provided by the HRSA/FORHP-supported Rural Health Research Gateway. [Sign up to receive alerts](#) when new publications become available.

[Major Depression, Treatment Receipt, and Treatment Sources Among Non-Metropolitan and Metropolitan Adults.](#) Major depression remains a relatively common health problem, but little is known about the prevalence of major depression and its treatment in non-metropolitan areas as compared to metropolitan areas. Using 2017 data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health researchers at the Rural and Underserved Research Center estimated and compared between non-metropolitan and metropolitan adults the prevalence of depression, receipt of treatment for depression, and sources of treatment for depression.

Policy Updates

Visit the [FORHP Policy page](#) to see all recent updates and send questions to ruralpolicy@hrsa.gov.

[Accepting Applications: CMS Direct Contracting Professional and Global Options](#) – July 6. On June 4, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that they are accepting applications for the Performance Year 1 cohort of the [Direct Contracting Professional and Global Options](#). Direct Contracting is intended to test whether the risk-based payment strategies available under the model align financial incentives and offer model participants (Direct Contracting Entities or DCEs). Each DCE must contract with Direct Contracting Participant Providers, which may include, but are not limited to, physicians or other practitioners in group practice arrangements, networks of individual practices of physicians or other practitioners, hospitals employing physicians or other practitioners, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), Rural Health Clinics (RHCs), and Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs). Applications for Performance Year 1 are due by July 6, 2020 for a start date of April 1, 2021.

[CARES Act Provider Relief Fund Distribution Summary.](#) HHS recently published a one-page summary document providing general information on the different Provider Relief Fund distributions. This includes a timeline of funding along with information on eligibility and formulas used to make distributions.

[**New Medicare Waivers to Address COVID-19**](#). On June 12, CMS added a new item to its list of emergency declaration waivers that provide the health care community with the flexibilities needed to care for patients during the COVID-19 public health emergency. In the latest update, CMS is waiving the July 1 submission deadline for new Medicare GME affiliation agreements and the June 30 deadline for amendments of existing Medicare GME affiliation agreements (page 9). For information on rural graduate medical education more broadly, HRSA-funded resources are available from [RuralGME.org](#).

[**MedPAC Releases June 2020 Report**](#). On June 15, the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) released its June 2020 Report to the Congress: Medicare and the Health Care Delivery System. Each June, as part of its mandate from the Congress, MedPAC reports on issues affecting the Medicare program as well as broader changes in health care delivery and the market for health care services. Chapter 7 on Medicare's end-stage renal disease prospective payment system discusses rural payment adjustments.

[**MACPAC Releases June 2020 Report**](#). The Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC) recently released its June 2020 Report to Congress on Medicaid and CHIP, which contains six chapters addressing some fundamental challenges facing Medicaid: improving integration of care for low-income people age 65 and older, and people with disabilities who are dually eligible for Medicaid and Medicare; ensuring that Medicaid is the payer of last resort when its beneficiaries also have coverage from another insurance program; and addressing concerns about high rates of maternal morbidity and mortality. Rural considerations feature prominently in Chapter 5 on maternal health.

[**MACPAC Publishes Telehealth Guide**](#). In addition to the June 2020 report, MACPAC also recently published a catalog providing high level, state-specific information on telehealth policy changes during the COVID-19 pandemic pertaining to services and specialties, providers, modalities, originating site and licensure rules, and payment.

Learning Events and Technical Assistance

[**Tackling Child Poverty in the Wake of COVID-19 – Thursday, June 18 at 2:00 pm ET**](#). The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine will host experts in a discussion about policies and programs to reduce child poverty.

[**NCSL: Maintaining Child Vaccination Rates During Pandemic – Monday, June 22 at 2:00 pm ET**](#). The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) is holding an hour-long session on actions states are taking to reverse the trend of decreased immunization.

[**Application Assistance for RCORP-Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Funding – Tuesday, June 23 at 2:00 pm ET**](#). The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy will hold a webinar for applicants to the [Rural Community Opioid Response Program \(RCORP\) – Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome](#) funding opportunity. **Call-In Number:** 1-888-282-8361; Participant Code: 2652580. A recording will be made available for those who cannot attend. **Playback Number:** 1-800-388-9075; Passcode: 62320.

[**ONDCP Launches Rural Community Toolbox – Wednesday, June 24 at 3:00 pm ET**](#). The Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) is a component of the Executive Office of the President working to reduce drug use. In this hour-long webinar, they will introduce the Rural Community Toolbox website, an online clearinghouse for federal funding and resources.

[**AAFP COVID-19 CME Webinar Series – Wednesday, June 24 at 8:00 pm ET**](#). In an hour-long webinar, The American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) will cover clinical topics and perspectives for COVID-19.

[**HRSA Webinar for Clinical Leaders – Thursday, June 25 at 2:00 pm ET**](#). Dr. Luis Padilla, Associate Administrator of HRSA's Bureau of Health Workforce invites clinical leaders to the **Leading in Uncertain Times** webinar, a peer-to-peer forum for clinical leaders in rural and underserved communities. The hour-long discussion will cover issues related to telehealth, student training staffing models, and provider wellness.

[Culturally Affirming Approaches for Black Men in Recovery](#) – Thursday, June 25 at 2:00 pm ET. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration will hold a 90-minute online session highlighting current research and best practices for supporting Black men in recovery.

[RWJF on Disproportionate Impact of COVID-19 on Black Communities](#) – Thursday, June 25 at 3:00 pm ET. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's County Health Rankings will explore existing disparities and discuss how communities can begin to address them.

[Indian Child Welfare: Responses to COVID-19](#) – Tuesday, June 30 at 2:00 pm ET. During an hour-long webinar, the National Indian Child Welfare Association will host experts to discuss implementation of the Indian Child Welfare Act during the pandemic and impacts to state agencies.

Resources of the Week

[AHA Case Study: Managing COVID-19 in a Rural Community](#). The American Hospital Association (AHA) provides details on how St. James Parish Hospital in Litcher, Louisiana worked with local government and community partners to prepare for COVID-19.

[The Future of Rural Value-Based Care and Surge Capacity](#). A short brief from [the Rural Health Value Team](#) examines the conflict between the long-term transition to value-based care and the immediate needs brought by the pandemic.

Approaching Deadlines

[DOL National Emergency Grants for Dislocated Workers](#) – Ongoing

[FEMA Public Assistance Program: COVID-19 Response](#) – Ongoing

[Small Business Administration Coronavirus Relief Programs](#) – Ongoing

[Payment Deferrals: USDA Guaranteed Loans for Rural Development](#) – Until September 30

[USDA Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network](#) – June 23

[DHS Rural Emergency Medical Communications Demonstration Project](#) – June 24

[IHS/NIH Native American Research Centers for Health](#) – Letters of Intent June 24

[HRSA Faculty Loan Repayment Program](#) – June 25

[ACL Alaska Native Tribal Resource Center on Domestic Violence](#) – June 26

[Dept. of Treasury Community Development Financial Institutions](#) – June 26

[Nominations for Community Preventive Services Task Force](#) – June 26

[CDC Strategies to Maintain HIV Viral Suppression Among Released State Prison Inmates](#) – June 29

[USDA Higher Education Multicultural Scholars Program](#) – June 29

[ACF Community Services Block Grant – Waste/Wastewater Technical Assistance](#) – June 30

[DOL Mine Health and Safety Grants](#) – June 30

[EPA State Environmental Justice Cooperative Agreement Program](#) – June 30

[HRSA Rural Residency Planning and Development \(RRPD\) Program](#) – June 30

[ACF Fatherhood FIRE Program](#) – July 1

[HRSA Telehealth-Focused Rural Health Research Center Program](#) – Extended to July 1

[RWJF Rapid-Response Research on Federal Nutrition Assistance Programs](#) – July 1

[ACF Basic Center Program for Runaway/Homeless Youth](#) – July 3

[Accepting Applications: CMS Direct Contracting Professional and Global Options](#) – July 6

[Comments Requested: CMS Issues Second COVID-19 Interim Final Rule](#) – July 7

[Comments Requested: Proposed Updates for FY2021 Medicare Inpatient and Long-term Care Hospital Payments](#) - July 10

[HRSA Rural HIV/AIDS Planning Program](#) – July 10

[CDC Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences](#) – July 13

[Dept. of Education School-Based Mental Health Services](#) – July 13

[HRSA Rural Communities Opioid Response Program-Planning](#) – July 13

[USDA Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants](#) – July 13

[New Funding Opportunity: Rural Communities Opioid Response Program-Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome \(RCORP-NAS\)](#) – July 20

[New Sites for National Health Service Corps \(NHSC\)](#) – July 21

[IHS/NIH Native American Research Centers for Health](#) – July 24

[DOL Workforce Opportunity for Rural Communities](#) – July 29

[ACL Transit Planning for All Mobility on Demand Projects](#) – July 31

[Request for Information: Clinical Experience in Suicide Prevention in Primary Care Settings](#) – August 7

[DRA Delta Leadership Institute Executive Academy](#) – August 18

[DOT Funding Public Transportation on Indian Reservations](#) – August 24

[USDA Coronavirus Food Assistance Program](#) – August 28

[AHA Rural Hospital Leadership Team Award](#) – August 31

[NIH Researching Long-Term Effects of Disasters on Systems Serving Disparity Populations](#) – September 7

[NIH Research on Minority Health/Health Disparities](#) – September 8

[USDA Capacity Building for 1890 Land-Grant Institutions](#) – September 10

[AHRQ Innovation Challenge for Rural Postpartum Mental Health](#) – September 15

[Request for Information \(RFI\): Health Professional Shortage Area Scoring Criteria](#) – September 18

[Request for Information \(RFI\): Maternity Care Health Professional Target Area Criteria](#) – September 18

[FCC High Speed Broadband/Rural Opportunity Fund](#) – October 22

Ongoing Opportunities

[AHRQ Research to Improve Patient Transitions through HIT](#) – December 2022

[ASA Rural Access to Anesthesia Care Scholarship](#)

[CMS Hardship Exception for Hospital Interoperability](#) – September 1, 2020; November 30 for CAHs

[DRA Technical Assistance for Delta Region Community Health Systems Development](#)

[EPA Drinking Water State Revolving Fund](#)

[HUD Hospital Mortgage Insurance Program](#)

[IHS Tribal Forensic Healthcare Training](#)

[NARHC Certified Rural Health Clinic Professional Course](#)

[NIH Dissemination and Implementation Research in Health](#) – May 2022

[NIH Research – Alcohol and Other Substance Use](#) – Dates Through August 2022

[NIH Research to Improve Health Care Quality and Outcomes Through HIT](#)

[NIH Strategies for Patient-Reported Outcome Measures in HIT](#)

[Nominations for Federal Advisory Commission on HIV, Viral Hepatitis, and Sexually Transmitted Diseases](#)

[Nominations for National Advisory Committee on Migrant Health](#)

[Opportunity Zones for Economic Development](#)

[Rural Graduate Medical Education Planning and Development](#)

[RWJF Investigator-Initiated Research to Build a Culture of Health](#)

[RWJF Pioneering Ideas Brief Proposals](#)

[SBA Guaranteed Loans for Small Business](#)

[USDA Community Facilities Program](#)

[USDA Community Food Projects Technical Assistance](#)

[USDA Drinking Water and Waste Disposal for Rural and Native Alaskan Villages](#)

[USDA Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants](#)

[USDA Guaranteed Loans for Rural Rental Housing – through 2021](#)

[USDA Rural Business Development Grants](#)

[USDA Rural Energy Savings Program](#)

[USDA Summer Food Program](#)

[USDA Technical Assistance for Healthy Food Financing Initiative](#)

[USDA Telecommunications Infrastructure Loans](#)

[USDA Funding for Rural Water and Waste Disposal Projects](#)

The Announcements from the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy are distributed weekly. To subscribe, [sign up for Rural Health Updates at HRSA.gov](#).



Funding



Webinars
and Other Events



Resources



Clinical Trials



Workforce
Development



Knowledge
Center



Visit [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) for Coronavirus (COVID-19) Public Health Updates

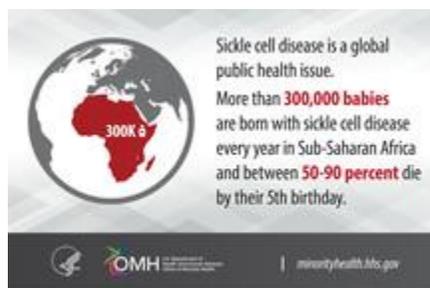
June is Men's Health Month

The **HHS Office of Minority Health (OMH)** recognizes **June** as *Men's Health Month*, a national observance used to raise awareness about health care for men and focus on encouraging boys to practice and implement healthy living decisions. Join OMH in observing [Men's Health Week](#) (**June 15-21**) to promote regular doctor visits and early treatment. As part of Men's Health Week, [Wear Blue Day](#) will be celebrated on **June 19** to help spread the word about the importance of disease prevention, early detection and pursuing treatment after a diagnosis. For Men's Health Month resources and materials, visit the [OMH website](#).



June 19 is World Sickle Cell Day

HHS and the **Sickle Cell Disease Association of America (SCDAA)** recognize **June 19** as *World Sickle Cell Day*. This international awareness day is observed annually with the goal to increase public knowledge and an understanding of sickle cell disease (SCD). To learn



more about the disease, please visit the HHS OMH [SCD website](#) for resources, webinars, testimonies, downloadable graphics and more.

You can find further information and resources via the [SCDAA](#), the [Sickle Cell Society](#) and the [Sickle Cell Disease Coalition](#).



Funding

2020-2021 Research Grants

The National Institute for Health Care

Management supports health services research that improves equity, access to care, efficiency, quality or preparedness within the U.S. health care system.

Deadline for Letter of Intent (LOI) is June 29.

[Learn More](#)

Innovations in Newborn Screening Interoperability

The HHS Health Resources and Services

Administration (HRSA) funds entities that provide technical assistance, training and education in data interoperability to state newborn screening programs.

Deadline is July 1.

[Learn More](#)

Evidence-Based Practice Implementation Grant

The **Sigma Foundation for Nursing** and the

American Nurses Credentialing Center support nurse-led projects within a clinical setting that apply evidence to practice and evaluate the effects on patient outcomes.

Deadline is July 1.

[Learn More](#)

Building Population Health Research Capacity in the U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands

The HHS National Institutes of Health (NIH)

supports population health research in Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Micronesia, the Marshall Islands and Palau.

Deadline is July 15.

[Learn More](#)

Emergency Awards: SARS-CoV-2 Serological Sciences

Community Interventions to Reduce the Impact of COVID-19

The **NIH** will establish Serological Sciences Centers of Excellence and support research to characterize the immune responses elicited by SARS-CoV-2, the viral infection that causes COVID-19.

Deadline is July 22.

[Research Projects](#)

[Centers of Excellence](#)

on Health Disparity and Other Vulnerable Populations

The **NIH** supports research on community interventions, local and state policies, and programs focused on the prevention (or slowing) of COVID-19 transmission.

Deadline is December 15, 5:00 pm ET.

[Learn More](#)



Webinars and Other Events

Tribal Health Research Agenda: Governance, Trust, and Culture

The **National Native Health Research Training Initiative** webinar series will address the development of research methods consistent with American Indian/Alaska Native culture when evaluating and improving health care systems.

TODAY, June 17, 2:00 pm ET.

[Register](#)

Control and Prevention Strategies in Epidemics

The **New England Public Health Training Center** webinar will discuss nonpharmaceutical interventions, vaccination and case management tools that influence the course and outcome of pandemics such as Ebola and COVID-19.

June 22, 2:00 pm ET.

HIV and Education Webinars

The **GMHC (Gay Men's Health Crisis)** webinar series will cover the following topics: aging with HIV, reducing barriers to care for transgender clients and the connection of substance abuse to HIV and hepatitis.

June 17, June 25 and July 9, 2:30 pm ET.

[Register](#)

Population Health in Rural America in 2020

The **National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine** 2-day virtual workshop will convene experts to discuss public health, health care and community efforts to address rural and Tribal health disparities and access to care.

June 24-25, 11:00 am ET.

[Register](#)

Leveraging Data to Address Sickle Cell Disease

The **HHS Office of the Chief Technology Officer (CTO)**, the **HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH)** and the **Center for Open Data Enterprise** webinar will identify data resources, gaps and strategies to promote applications that can help policymakers, healthcare providers and other stakeholders improve care and quality of life for individuals with SCD.

June 24, 12:00 pm ET.

[Register](#)

[Register](#)

Subtype-specific Breast Cancer Risk in Highly Indigenous Latin American Women

The Genomics and Health Disparities Lecture Series, co-sponsored by **NIH** and the **Food and Drug Administration Office of Minority Health (FDA OMH)**, will address genetic and non-genetic factors that increase the risk for and affects the prognosis of breast cancer in Hispanics/Latinas.

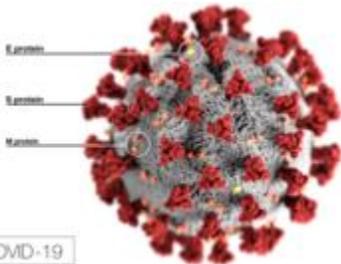
June 25, 3:00 pm ET.

[Register](#)



Resources

Resources: COVID-19



The **HHS Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** have published a blog that informs consumers about health care scams during the COVID-19 pandemic: [Buyer Beware: How to Avoid Scams, Fraud, & Rumor During an Emergency.](#)

UnidosUS and the **Food Research Action Center** is hosting a Spanish-language webinar that will address changes made to the SNAP program due to COVID-19 and will discuss challenges, best practices and lessons learned by Hispanics/Latinxs enrolled in SNAP: [Cambios al Programa de SNAP Bajo COVID-19.](#)

June 18, 2:30 pm ET. This webinar will be presented in Spanish.

The **National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)** has released a resource guide that addresses the issues disproportionately affecting communities of color during the COVID-19 pandemic: [Coronavirus Equity Considerations](#).

The **Community Access, Recruitment, and Engagement Research Center** has archived their 2-part discussion on how misconceptions about COVID-19 contribute to prejudice against Asian Americans and how this affects their health and well-being: *Not a Virus: Asian Identity and COVID-19*, [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#).

And the **Aspen Institute** has published a guide that sets out how various sport and recreation activities can be enjoyed while minimizing transmission or contraction of COVID-19: [Return to Play: COVID-19 Risk Assessment Tool](#).

Report: Masculine Norms and Men's Health: Making the Connections



The *Masculine Norms and Men's Health: Making the Connections* report, published by **Promundo** in collaboration with the **Global Action on Men's Health** and the **Movember Foundation**, provides an overview of men's health globally and illustrates the direct connections between masculine norms and health-risk behaviors including poor diet, substance use, occupational hazards, unsafe sex and limited health-seeking behavior.

[Learn More](#)

[Download the full report \(PDF\)](#)

Tool: Black Male Achievement City Index: The Promise of Place



The **Campaign for Black Male Achievement** has developed an index that scores 50 cities on a scale from 1 to 100 according to their visible level of engagement and committed action on behalf of Black men and boys. Cities were scored using the following indicators: demographics around race and gender, city-led commitment to supporting and addressing individual and systemic challenges facing Black men and boys, local presence of national programs, initiatives and organizations

supporting Black men and boys, and targeted philanthropic funding focused on Black men and boys.

[Learn More](#)

Job Opening: SAMHSA Supervisory Social Science

The **HHS Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)** seeks applications for Director (GS-0101-15) of the SAMHSA Office of Behavioral Health Equity. The Director position is the lead for SAMHSA's policy work focusing on underserved, racial and ethnic populations and promoting behavioral health equity and reducing disparities in access to mental health and substance use prevention, treatment and recovery services and supports.

Deadline is June 24.

[Government Wide](#)

[Open to the Public](#)



Clinical Trials

Sickle Cell Disease and the Genomic Needs of Parent and Pediatric Stakeholders

This study, sponsored by **St. Jude Children's Research Hospital** and the **NIH National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI)**, seeks parents of children, age 12 months to 18 years old, with HbSS, HbS/ β 0thalassemia or HbSC and patients aged 13-18 years old with the aforementioned SCD genotype. Study to be conducted at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn.

[Learn More](#)

Sleep and Pain in Sickle Cell Disease

This behavioral study, sponsored by **Johns Hopkins University**, the **University of Maryland College Park** and the **NIH NHLBI**, seeks volunteers age 18 years or older with a diagnosis of sickle cell

hemoglobinopathy, a stable dosing of medications (if taking) for pain and sleep and who report symptoms of insomnia and chronic pain. Study to be conducted at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, Md.

[Learn More](#)



Workforce Development

AAMC Collaborative for Health Equity: Act, Research, Generate Evidence (CHARGE)

The **Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)** [CHARGE](#) cultivates the health equity community by advancing collaborative research, policy and programmatic solutions to health and health care inequities. AAMC is currently requesting research proposals for access to newly available data from the AAMC [Consumer Survey of Health Care Access](#). AAMC will support studies that fit within the core mission of CHARGE.

[Health Equity Call for Research Informational Webinar](#), June 18, 2:30 pm ET.

Bridging the Gap Medical Interpreter Training Scholarship

The **Cross Cultural Health Care Program** is offering two scholarship opportunities to individuals interested in taking the [Bridging the Gap](#) medical interpreter training in August or September in Seattle, Wash. The Bridging the Gap program helps individuals develop their career as medical interpreters by covering foundational skills such as the roles of the interpreter, interpreter code of ethics, medical terminology and more. This professional development opportunity also prepares participants to meet state and national testing requirements.

Deadline is June 30.

[Learn More](#)

Health Equity Online Course: LGBTQ

This public health online learning course, offered by the **Rocky Mountain Public Health Training Center**, provides training on culturally competent care for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) individuals. It examines individual biases about LGBTQ communities, defines terms related to

sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, describes the health disparities, unique needs and consequences of bias and discrimination among this population, and analyzes workplace and community practices that promote or prevent LGBTQ bias and discrimination.

[Learn More](#)



Knowledge Center



Recommended Reading

The Knowledge Center online collection includes a variety of publications related to the health of minority men. In support of Men's Health Month, [click here](#) to read through some recent publications on men's health.



This message includes updates on the COVID-19 response from CDC. This is a rapidly evolving situation and information will be updated on the COVID-19 Situation Summary as it becomes available.

Received this email from a friend? [Sign up now](#)



Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

[CDC.gov/COVID19](https://www.cdc.gov/COVID19)

June 18, 2020

This message includes updates on the [COVID-19](#) response from CDC. The COVID-19 Outbreak is a rapidly evolving situation and information will be updated as it becomes available.

How COVID-19 Spreads

COVID-19 is thought to spread mainly through close contact between people, through respiratory droplets from an infected person who coughs, sneezes, or talks. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

[More Info](#)

Highlighted Resources

[Characteristics Associated with Hospitalization Among Patients with COVID-19 — Metropolitan Atlanta, Georgia, March – April 2020 \(MMWR\)](#)

Videos: [I Had COVID-19 but No Symptoms](#) and [I think or Know I had COVID-19 and I had Symptoms. When Can I Be With Others?](#)

[Guidance for Handlers of Service and Therapy Animals](#)

[Deciding to Go Out](#)

[Personal and Social Activities](#)

[More Updates](#)

Resources and Guidance

[Communities, Schools, and Businesses](#)

[People at Higher Risk for Severe Illness](#)

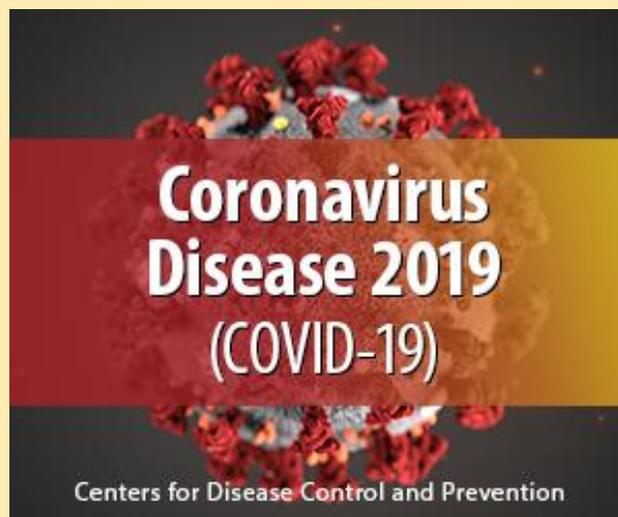
[Travel](#)

[State and Local Public Health Professionals](#)

[Healthcare Professionals](#)

[Laboratories](#)

[Resources in American Sign Language](#) 



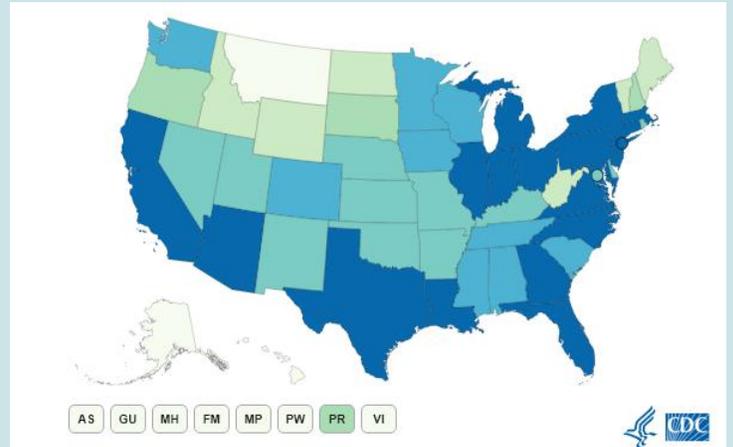
Resources are also available in [Spanish](#), [Simplified Chinese](#), [Vietnamese](#), and [Korean](#).

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the U.S.

As of June 18, 2020

In the United States, there have been 2,155,572 confirmed cases of COVID-19 detected through U.S. public health surveillance systems in 50 states and the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Northern Marianas Islands, and U.S. Virgin Islands.

CDC provides updated U.S. case information online daily.



U.S. Cases



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

1600 Clifton Rd Atlanta, GA 30329 1-800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636) TTY: 888-232-6348

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Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: FDA Revokes Emergency Use Authorization for Chloroquine and Hydroxychloroquine

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) [revoked the emergency use authorization](#) (EUA) that allowed for chloroquine phosphate and hydroxychloroquine sulfate donated to the Strategic National Stockpile to be used to treat certain hospitalized patients with COVID-19 when a clinical trial was unavailable, or participation in a clinical trial was not feasible. The agency determined that the legal

criteria for issuing an EUA are no longer met. Based on its ongoing analysis of the EUA and emerging scientific data, the FDA determined that chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine are unlikely to be effective in treating COVID-19 for the authorized uses in the EUA. Additionally, in light of ongoing serious cardiac adverse events and other potential serious side effects, the known and potential benefits of chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine no longer outweigh the known and potential risks for the authorized use. This is the statutory standard for issuance of an EUA. The Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services originally requested the EUA covering chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine, and the FDA granted the EUA on March 28, 2020 based on the science and data available at the time. Today, in consultation with the FDA, BARDA sent a letter to the FDA requesting revocation of the EUA based on up to date science and data.

“We’ve made clear throughout the public health emergency that our actions will be guided by science and that our decisions may evolve as we learn more about the SARS-CoV-2 virus, review the latest data, and consider the balance of risks versus benefits of treatments for COVID-19,” said FDA Deputy Commissioner for Medical and Scientific Affairs Anand Shah, M.D. “The FDA always underpins its decision-making with the most trustworthy, high-quality, up-to-date evidence available. We will continue to examine all of the emergency use authorizations the FDA has issued and make changes, as appropriate, based on emerging evidence.”

The FDA has a responsibility to regularly review the appropriateness of an EUA, and as such, the agency will review emerging information associated with the emergency uses for the authorized products. Recent results from a large randomized clinical trial in hospitalized patients, a population similar to the population for which chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine were authorized for emergency use, demonstrated that hydroxychloroquine showed no benefit on mortality or in speeding recovery. This outcome was consistent with other new data, including data showing that the suggested dosing regimens for chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine are unlikely to kill or inhibit the virus that causes COVID-19. The totality of scientific evidence currently available indicate a lack of benefit.

“While additional clinical trials continue to evaluate the potential benefit of these drugs in treating or preventing COVID-19, we determined the emergency use authorization was no longer appropriate. This action was taken following a rigorous assessment by scientists in our Center for Drug Evaluation and Research,” said Patrizia Cavazzoni, M.D., acting director of the FDA’s Center for Drug Evaluation. “We remain committed to using every tool at our disposal in collaboration with innovators and researchers to provide sick patients timely access to appropriate new therapies. Our decisions will always be based on objective and rigorous evaluation of the scientific data. This will never change.”

Chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine are both FDA-approved to treat or prevent malaria. Hydroxychloroquine is also approved to treat autoimmune conditions such as chronic discoid lupus erythematosus, systemic lupus erythematosus in adults, and rheumatoid arthritis. Both drugs have been prescribed for years to help patients with these debilitating, or even deadly, diseases, and FDA has determined that these drugs

are safe and effective when used for these diseases in accordance with their FDA-approved labeling. Of note, FDA approved products may be prescribed by physicians for off-label uses if they determine it is appropriate for treating their patients, including during COVID. <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-revokes-emergency-use-authorization-chloroquine-and>

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: FDA Takes Additional Action to Harness Real-World Data to Inform COVID-19 Response Efforts

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has taken an additional step in harnessing real-world data to help inform the agency's overall response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. The FDA is announcing its participation in the COVID-19 Diagnostics Evidence Accelerator, a multi-stakeholder collaborative project to advance the development of diagnostics. The Diagnostics Evidence Accelerator is organized by the Reagan-Udall Foundation for the FDA in collaboration with Friends of Cancer Research.

“While there are current studies of viral diagnostic and antibody tests using traditional assessment methods, the Diagnostics Evidence Accelerator will allow the community to analyze both diagnostic and clinical data in real time, which has the potential to contribute to the scientific evaluation of diagnostic tools and medical interventions for COVID-19,” said Amy Abernethy, M.D., Ph.D., FDA Principal Deputy Commissioner. “FDA’s participation in the Diagnostics Evidence Accelerator is another example of how we are working with a broad set of experts in healthcare data and analytics to understand the performance of SARS-CoV-2 tests and to inform clinical and public health decision-making.”

The Diagnostics Evidence Accelerator is the companion project to the previously announced [Therapeutic Evidence Accelerator External Link Disclaimer](#), which brings together leading experts in health data aggregation and analytics in a unified, collaborative effort to share insights, compare results and answer key questions to inform the collective COVID-19 response.

“This collaboration with the FDA, scientists and data experts is meeting the urgency of the moment to speed the pace of diagnostic testing,” said Ellen V. Sigal, Chair of both the Reagan-Udall Foundation and Friends of Cancer Research. “We all share the goal of deepening our understanding of COVID-19 on every front to ensure that patients receive the best care as quickly and safely as possible.”

Key research questions that will be examined through the Diagnostics Evidence Accelerator include evaluating the real-world performance of SARS-CoV-2 diagnostic tests and antibody tests, how they are best used to tailor testing strategies to specific populations, and what test results and data may reveal about the prevalence of disease, chains of transmission, and individual and population-level immunity. This effort will focus on the use of real-world data to understand whether the presence of antibodies can indicate future immunity and if so, which specific antibodies and epitopes contribute to some level of protection against future infection.

Using real-world data can also provide actionable information about the prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 in specific populations and highlight individual risk factors for patients,

helping to improve our understanding of the disease, tailor public health interventions and strategies to mitigate risks for individuals and communities, and help stop the spread of SARS-CoV-2. The evidence generated through the Diagnostics Accelerator is intended to be complementary to other studies that have been conducted or are underway as well as to address questions not yet answered.

“We recognize that questions related to the accuracy of diagnostic tests require different data elements that are not as widely available as those in the therapeutic space. They also require a different approach to data integration and analysis,” said Jeff Shuren, M.D., J.D., Director of FDA's Center for Devices and Radiological Health. “The aim of the Accelerator is to propose questions, refine them, evaluate the feasibility of different approaches, and bring together groups that have the data to answer the questions and develop lasting solutions. Ultimately, we hope that real-world data can provide a more generalizable and rapid read-out of results than traditional clinical trials.”

The Diagnostics Evidence Accelerator represents the type of data-focused effort that has the potential to inform our future emergency efforts. In an emergency setting, the FDA may issue emergency use authorizations (EUAs) which are evaluated using a different standard than is required for approval or clearance in non-emergency situations. Gaining a better understanding of the real-world performance characteristics of diagnostic tests and antibody tests can help inform future EUAs.

The FDA continues to engage with stakeholders and collaborate with partners on opportunities to apply data from diverse sources to inform its response to COVID-19. To engage with the FDA on these efforts, [contact us](#).

For members of the press, if you have additional questions, please contact FDA's Office of Media Affairs at: fdaoma@fda.hhs.gov

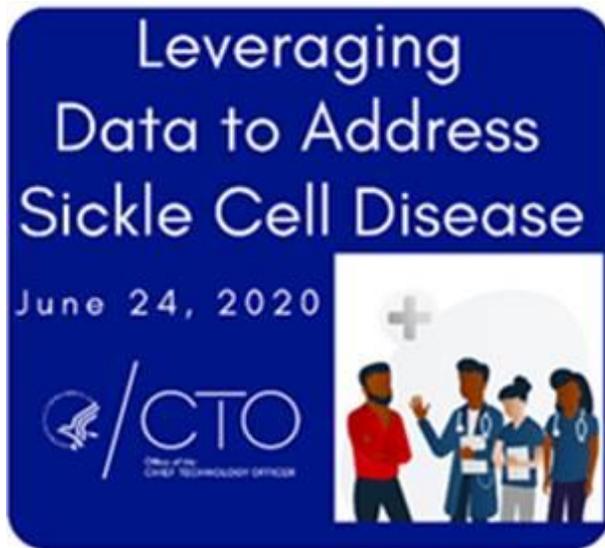
For other partners that have additional questions, you can contact us at: ORAInfo@fda.hhs.gov

Thank you for your continuous support!



www.fda.gov

Attend the Webinar on Leveraging Data to Address Sickle Cell Disease on 6/24!



Are you interested in accelerating data-driven solutions to improve the quality of life for patients living with Sickle Cell Disease? Join us virtually at 12:00pm EST on June 24, 2020 for the first-ever Webinar on Leveraging Data to Address Sickle Cell Disease. You'll hear from the HHS Assistant Secretary of Health, Admiral Brett Giroir, as well as other lightning talk speakers, and learn how you can get involved to identify data resources, gaps, and strategies for data application to help individuals with Sickle Cell Disease.

The Office of the Chief Technology Officer and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Center for Open Data Enterprise are co-hosting this event. This Webinar precedes a Roundtable to convene HHS leaders, federal and state government, the private sector, patient advocates, and academic and research institutions to address central themes faced by patients, including a patient's transition from pediatric to adult care, and the challenges faced by SCD patients accessing emergency care.

Learn more about the Roundtable and register here. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/leveraging-data-to-address-sickle-cell-disease-tickets-107272506956>

For other questions, please reach out directly to the HHS CTO leads at idealab@hhs.gov.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

Free and confidential support for people in distress

1-800-273-TALK (8255) Get Help –

We can all help prevent suicide.

The Lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones, and best practices for professionals.

[FindTreatment.gov](https://www.findtreatment.gov) is an important resource to help Americans looking for substance abuse treatment for themselves or their loved ones find the right type of treatment.
