



Office of the Regional Director

HHS REGION 4

HHS Region 4 Health News – June 23, 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.

**Join us for a webcast
on June 23 or June 25
at 2:00 ET**

Provider Relief Fund:
Medicaid and CHIP Distribution



<https://twitter.com/HHSGov/status/1275455579301920773/photo/1>

Community Health News

[Mental Health Parity Toolkit](#)

This toolkit promoted by the CDC's [Public Health Law Program](#) provides an overview of the laws that require health insurers to cover mental health and substance abuse treatment—known as “parity laws.”

[New Guide on the Treatment of Stimulant Use Disorders](#)

This new SAMHSA publication supports health care providers, systems, and communities seeking to treat stimulant use disorders. It describes relevant research findings, examines best practices, identifies knowledge gaps and implementation challenges, and offers useful resources.

[Launch of Rural Community Toolbox Website](#)

Wed., June 24, 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 to support rural leaders in building strong, healthy, and drug-free communities.

[Suicide Prevention Training for Clergy](#)

Wed., June 24, 2020, 2:00 p.m. EDT. [Register here.](#)

The Center for Faith and Opportunity Initiative (CFOI) at Veteran Affairs is hosting this webinar to help faith and community leaders better understand the scope of suicide in the U.S., how to identify a Veteran that may be at risk for suicide, and what to do when a Veteran is identified as being at risk.

COVID-19 Related News

[Explaining Operation Warp Speed](#)

HHS released a [Fact Sheet explaining Operation Warp Speed](#), a strategy that aims to deliver 300 million doses of a safe, effective vaccine for COVID-19 by January 2021, as part of a broader strategy to accelerate the development, manufacturing, and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics.

[SBA's Recovery and Resilience for Faith Based Communities Call](#)

Tonight! Mon., June 22, 5 p.m. EDT, [Join here](#) or call 833-380-0652

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) will be hosting a national call to discuss how the faith community can recover from the financial impact of COVID-19. The discussion will specifically focus on the remaining funds available to faith-based organizations through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL).

Also see the recent news: [SBA and Treasury Announce New EZ and Revised Full Forgiveness Applications for the Paycheck Protection Program](#)

[HHS Awards \\$107.2 Million to Grow and Train the Health Workforce](#)

HHS, through its Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), announced awards totaling [\\$107.2 million to 310 recipients to increase the health workforce in rural and underserved communities](#) aimed at improving the quality, distribution, and diversity of health professionals serving across the country.

****Learn about other [HRSA funding opportunities](#).**

[COVID-19: Vulnerable Populations and Palliative Care: Call for Social Justice Webinar](#)

Thurs. July 9, 2020, 3:00 p.m. EDT, [Register here.](#)

Presented by a CDC partner, speakers will address the central role of palliative care across all systems and provide a trauma-informed perspective in working with diverse and vulnerable people affected by the pandemic, as well as the critical importance of workforce education and training.

COVID-19 Related Guidance and Advisories

[Updated Considerations for Events and Gatherings](#)

Event planners and officials can determine, in collaboration with state and local health officials, whether and how to implement the CDC's [considerations](#) for making adjustments that will meet the unique needs and circumstances of the local community.

[Updated Considerations for Community-Based Organizations](#)

As some community-based organizations (CBOs) should continually assess, based on current conditions, how to modify their operations and programming to both advance their mission and protect their staff and stakeholders.

[On Running Errands and Going Out](#)

While there is no way to ensure zero risk of infection, CDC released information on preventive measures to consider before venturing out to run errands, using transportation, or resuming personal or social activities.

[Tips to Keep Children Healthy While Schools Out](#)

This guidance includes information on keeping children active, socially connected, helping children cope with stress, and watching for signs of illness.

[Household Checklist for Protecting Your Home](#)

CDC's [household checklist](#) encourages families to stay informed and in touch, prepare for possible illness, and take every day preventative actions. CDC has also updated guidance for [daily life and coping](#) during the COVID-19 pandemic.

[For People Experiencing Homelessness](#)

Because many people who are homeless are older adults or have underlying medical conditions, they may also be at higher risk for severe disease. CDC also released updated guidance intended to [support response planning by homeless service providers](#), including overnight emergency shelters, day shelters, and meal service providers.

[On Alcohol and Substance Use](#)

Increased stress can lead to increases in alcohol and substance use. If you or someone you care about is starting to use alcohol or other substances, or is increasing their use during the COVID-19 pandemic, CDC has released guidance and resources highlighting the basics of excessive use and what you can do to help.

[ACL Updated COVID-19 Resources](#)

HHS's Administration for Community Living has updated the [COVID-19 resources page](#) on their website with particularly relevance for seniors and persons with disabilities.

[Keeping Pets Safe Video](#)

FDA released a [new video](#) about how to keep your pets safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Grant Announcements

[Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity Program \(SHOP\)](#)

FR-6400-N-19 Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced the availability of \$10,000,000 in FY2020 SHOP Grant funds to be awarded to national and regional non-profit organizations and consortia to facilitate and encourage innovative homeownership opportunities on a national, geographically diverse basis through the provision of self-help homeownership housing programs.

**Learn about other [HUD funding announcements](#).

[Rural Communities Opioid Response Program \(RCORP\) – Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome \(RCORP-NAS\)](#)

HRSA-20-106 - The RCORP - NAS project seeks to reduce the incidence and impact of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) in rural communities by improving systems of care, family supports, and social determinants of health. Eligible applicants include all domestic public or private, non-profit, or for profit entities including accredited, academic institutions. Domestic faith-based and community-based organizations, tribes, and tribal organizations are eligible to apply.

Closing date: July 20, 2020.

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

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

HHS is [accepting grant applications](#) for the Title X Family Services program and evaluation research related to the Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) program.

[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. **Closing date: July 2, 2020.**

[Fatherhood - Family-focused, Interconnected, Resilient, and Essential \(Fatherhood FIRE\)](#) HHS-2020-ACF-OFA-ZJ-1846 - Closing date: July 1, 2020.

[Relationships, Education, Advancement, and Development for Youth for Life \(READY4Life\)](#) HHS-2020-ACF-OFA-ZD-1838 - Closing date: July 1, 2020.

[Family, Relationship, and Marriage Education Works - Adults \(FRAMEWorks\)](#) HHS-2020-ACF-OFA-ZB-1817 - Closing date: July 1, 2020.

Grants and Loans from USDA Supporting Rural Communities - Currently Accepting Applications:

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

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

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

[USDA Rural Business Development Grants](#)

In case you missed this last week, 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.



U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

National Institutes of Health



National Center for
Complementary and
Integrative Health

NIH... Turning Discovery Into Health

Health and Wellness
Information

It's International Men's Health Week



This week is International Men's Health Week—a time for encouraging men and boys to focus on steps they can take toward healthier living.

Visit our website for information that can help you meet your health goals related to:

- [Coronavirus and “alternative” treatments](#)
- [Quitting smoking](#)
- [Risk factors for heart disease](#)
- [Bodybuilding products](#)
- [Using dietary supplements wisely](#)

Interested in something else? Look for it in our [A to Z list](#) of health topics.

[Find out more](#)

Medicare Coverage of COVID-19 Testing for Nursing Home Residents and Patients

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has instructed Medicare Administrative Contactors and notified Medicare Advantage plans to cover coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) laboratory tests for nursing home residents and patients. This instruction follows the Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention's (CDC) recent update of COVID-19 [testing guidelines for nursing homes](#) that provides recommendations for testing of nursing home residents and patients with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 as well as for asymptomatic residents and patients who have been exposed to COVID like in an outbreak. Original Medicare and Medicare Advantage plans will cover COVID-19 lab tests consistent with CDC guidance.

Medicare Advantage plans must continue not to charge cost sharing (including deductibles, copayments, and coinsurance) or apply prior authorization or other utilization management requirements for COVID-19 tests and testing-related services.

Read the Medicare Learning Network article: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/se20011.pdf>.

Read the memo to Medicare Advantage plans: <https://cms.gov/files/document/hpms-memo-diagnostic-testing-nursing-home-residents-and-patients-coronavirus-disease-2019.pdf>.

More information about Medicare coverage of COVID-19 tests is available at:

<https://www.medicare.gov/coverage/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-tests>.

The Medicare Learning Network®, MLN Connects®, and MLN Matters® are registered trademarks of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).



CMS Regional Office

CMS COVID-19 Stakeholder Engagement Calls – Week of 6/22/20

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 23rd at 5:00 – 6:00 PM Eastern

Toll Free Attendee Dial In: 833-614-0820; Access Passcode: 5775248

Audio Webcast link: <https://protect2.fireeye.com/url?k=e6d40f9a-ba81064a-e6d43ea5-0cc47a6a52de-87ea56ee2eb62db5&u=https://protect2.fireeye.com/url?k=62614223-3e355b5f-6261731c-0cc47adc5fa2-1ae7d81e2ad12740&u=https://engage.vevent.com/rt/cms2/index.jsp?seid=2181>

Weekly COVID-19 Care Site-Specific Calls

CMS hosts weekly calls for certain types of organizations to provide targeted updates on the agency's latest COVID-19 guidance. One to two leaders in the field also share best practices with their peers. There is an opportunity to ask questions of presenters if time allows.

Home Health and Hospice (2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 3:00 PM Eastern)

Tuesday, June 23rd at 3:00 – 3:30 PM Eastern

Toll Free Attendee Dial-In: 833-614-0820; Access Passcode: 3676539 Audio Webcast Link:

<https://protect2.fireeye.com/url?k=f7f9a8ef-abaca13f-f7f999d0-0cc47a6a52de-bf72d4c1a4da177b&u=https://protect2.fireeye.com/url?k=84577d6d-d8035446-84574c52-0cc47a6d17cc-4851ff5eae8ad0f8&u=https://engage.vevent.com/rt/cms2/index.jsp?seid=2165>

Nursing Homes (2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 4:30 PM Eastern)

Wednesday, June 24th at 4:30 – 5:00 PM Eastern

Toll Free Attendee Dial-In: 833-614-0820; Access Passcode: 3089577 Audio Webcast Link:

<https://protect2.fireeye.com/url?k=1d36555e-41635c8e-1d366461-0cc47a6a52de-0818a4a381caa92e&u=https://protect2.fireeye.com/url?k=3723a473-6b76ada3-3723954c-0cc47a6a52de-5d0aa8ceae593a5e&u=https://engage.vevent.com/rt/cms2/index.jsp?seid=2220>

Dialysis Organizations (2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 5:30 PM Eastern)

Wednesday, June 24th at 5:30 – 6:00 PM Eastern

Toll Free Attendee Dial-In: 833-614-0820; Access Passcode: 6494855 Audio Webcast Link:

<https://protect2.fireeye.com/url?k=74387bf5-286d7225-74384aca-0cc47a6a52de-cb624aa7edaf799b&u=https://protect2.fireeye.com/url?k=ea40dff0-b614f6db-ea40eecf-0cc47a6d17cc-1b94e692e676069f&u=https://engage.vevent.com/rt/cms2/index.jsp?seid=2236>

Nurses (2nd and 4th Thursdays at 3:00 PM Eastern)

Thursday, June 25th at 3:00 – 3:30 PM Eastern

Toll Free Attendee Dial-In: 833-614-0820; Access Passcode: 9496814 Audio Webcast Link:

<https://protect2.fireeye.com/url?k=14e525b4-48b02c64-14e5148b-0cc47a6a52de-37bac16e69a72a5b&u=https://protect2.fireeye.com/url?k=87f7cfd6-dba3d6aa-87f7fee9-0cc47adc5fa2-d74fba528bf5f6d9&u=https://engage.vevent.com/rt/cms2/index.jsp?seid=2242>

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

CMS NEWS: Trump Administration Issues Call to Action Based on New Data Detailing COVID-19 Impacts on Medicare Beneficiaries

Today, under the leadership of President Trump, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is calling for a renewed national commitment to value-based care based on Medicare claims data that provides an early snapshot of the impact of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic on the Medicare population. The data shows that older Americans and those with chronic health conditions are at the highest risk for COVID-19 and confirms long-understood disparities in health outcomes for racial and ethnic minority groups and among low-income populations.

“The disparities in the data reflect longstanding challenges facing minority communities and low income older adults, many of whom face structural challenges to their health that go far beyond what is traditionally considered ‘medical’,” said CMS Administrator Seema Verma. “Now more than ever, it is clear that our fee-for-service system is insufficient for the most vulnerable Americans because it limits payment to what goes on inside a doctor’s office. The transition to a value-based system has never been so urgent. When implemented effectively, it encourages clinicians to care for the whole person and address the social risk factors that are so critical for our beneficiaries’ quality of life.”

The data released today includes the total number of reported COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations among Medicare beneficiaries between January 1 and May 16, 2020. The snapshot breaks down COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations for Medicare beneficiaries by state, race/ethnicity, age, gender, dual eligibility for Medicare and Medicaid, and urban/rural locations. The new data show that more than 325,000 Medicare beneficiaries had a diagnosis of COVID-19 between January 1 and May 16, 2020. This translates to 518 COVID-19 cases per 100,000 Medicare beneficiaries. The data also indicate that nearly 110,000 Medicare beneficiaries were hospitalized for COVID-19-related treatment, which equals 175 COVID-19 hospitalizations per 100,000 Medicare beneficiaries.

Blacks were hospitalized with COVID-19 at a rate nearly four times higher than whites. The disparities presented in the snapshot go beyond race/ethnicity and suggest the impact of social determinants of health, particularly socio-economic status.

Other key data points:

- End-stage renal disease (ESRD) patients (individuals with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis) had the highest rate of hospitalization among all Medicare beneficiaries, with 1,341 hospitalizations per 100,000 beneficiaries. Patients with ESRD are also more likely to have chronic comorbidities associated with increased COVID-19 complications and hospitalization, such as diabetes and heart failure.

- The second highest rate was among beneficiaries enrolled in both Medicare and Medicaid (also known as “dual eligible”), with 473 hospitalizations per 100,000 beneficiaries.
- Among racial/ethnic groups, Blacks had the highest hospitalization rate, with 465 per 100,000. Hispanics had 258 hospitalizations per 100,000. Asians had 187 per 100,000 and whites had 123 per 100,000.
- Beneficiaries living in rural areas have fewer cases and were hospitalized at a lower rate than those living in urban/suburban areas (57 versus 205 hospitalizations per 100,000).

The snapshot also shows that besides higher hospitalization rates, beneficiaries enrolled in both Medicaid and Medicare have a higher infection rate of COVID-19, with 1,406 cases per 100,000 beneficiaries. By comparison, the coronavirus infection rate for beneficiaries enrolled only in Medicare is 325 cases per 100,000. The rate of COVID-19 cases for dual eligible individuals is higher across all age, sex, and race/ethnicity groups. Previous research has shown that these individuals experience high rates of chronic illness, with many having long-term care needs and social risk factors that can lead to poor health outcomes.

Given the complexity of these disparities, any solution requires a multi-sectoral approach that includes federal, state, and local governments, community based organizations, and private industry. One piece of this is the increased implementation of a value-based system that rewards providers for keeping patients healthy and gives consumers the information about disease prevention and outcomes needed to help make healthcare choices on the basis of quality. Additionally, CMS is encouraging states to double down on efforts to protect low income seniors and look at the data and determine what resources are available, both locally and federally, to improve this disparity of health outcomes. CMS has identified a range of operational opportunities for states to improve care for dually eligible individuals and a variety of models that states can participate in that focus on improving the quality and cost of care for individuals who are concurrently enrolled in Medicaid and Medicare.

The Center for Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Services is developing guidance for states on new opportunities to adopt innovative, value-based payment design and implement strategies to address social determinants of health for their beneficiaries, including those who are dually-eligible for Medicare and Medicaid. In addition to these ongoing efforts and programs, the CMS Office of Minority Health will be holding a series of listening sessions with key stakeholders responsible for providing care to racial and ethnic minorities. These listening sessions are intended to help refine the ongoing outreach and work by CMS to improve future efforts on this issue.

CMS typically releases Medicare claims information on an annual basis when there are more complete claims and encounter data. However, as part of the agency’s efforts to provide data transparency during the pandemic and ensure the public has this vital information as soon as it is available, CMS is releasing this preliminary data now. The data will be updated on a monthly basis as more claims and encounter records are received. CMS anticipates releasing similar information on Medicaid beneficiaries in the future.

For more information on the Medicare COVID-19 data, visit: <https://www.cms.gov/research-statistics-data-systems/preliminary-medicare-covid-19-data-snapshot>

For an FAQ on this data release, visit: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/medicare-covid-19-data-snapshot-faqs.pdf>

For a blog by CMS Administrator Seema Verma, visit: <https://www.cms.gov/blog/medicare-covid-19-data-release-blog>

CMS Regional Office

HHS Announces Partnership with Morehouse School of Medicine to Fight COVID-19 in Racial and Ethnic Minority and Vulnerable Communities

\$40 Million Initiative Will Help Communities Hardest Hit by the Pandemic

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Minority Health (OMH) announced the selection of the Morehouse School of Medicine as the awardee for a new \$40 million initiative to fight COVID-19 in racial and ethnic minority, rural and socially vulnerable communities. The Morehouse School of Medicine will enter into a cooperative agreement with OMH to lead the initiative to coordinate a strategic network of national, state, territorial, tribal and local organizations to deliver COVID-19-related information to communities hardest hit by the pandemic.

“The Trump Administration has made it a priority to support and empower Americans who have been most impacted by COVID-19, including minority, rural, and socially vulnerable communities,” said HHS Secretary Alex Azar. “This new partnership between the Morehouse School of Medicine and our Office of Minority Health will work with trusted community organizations to bring information on COVID-19 testing, vaccinations, and other services to the Americans who need it.”

The initiative – the National Infrastructure for Mitigating the Impact of COVID-19 within Racial and Ethnic Minority Communities (NIMIC) – is a three-year project designed to work with community-based organizations across the nation to deliver education and information on resources to help fight the pandemic. The information network will strengthen efforts to link communities to COVID-19 testing, healthcare and social services and to best share and implement effective response, recovery and resilience strategies.

“Underlying social determinants of health and disparate burdens of chronic medical conditions are contributing to worse COVID-related outcomes in minority and socially vulnerable communities, and this partnership with Morehouse School of Medicine is essential to improving our overall response,” said Assistant Secretary for Health ADM Brett P. Giroir, M.D. “We’ve made important strides over the past few months in fighting the pandemic, and with Morehouse

School of Medicine as our partner, we are ready to advance our efforts to support our most affected communities.”

These social determinants of health are the conditions in which we live, work, grow and age, that can include working conditions; unemployment; underemployment; access to essential goods and services such as water, sanitation and food; housing; and access to quality healthcare. Such conditions may reflect inequities experienced by disadvantaged communities, leading to poor health status and adverse health outcomes and requiring community- and systems-level responses.

“We know the power of partnerships to help us solve our most pressing public health challenges,” said U.S. Surgeon General VADM Jerome M. Adams, M.D., M.P.H. “This initiative has at its core the community-based organizations who know their people best and who are committed to working collaboratively to reduce health-inequities and make them healthy and safe.”

OMH announced the initiative through a funding announcement on May 1. The NIMIC initiative is expected to begin in July and the first award is for \$14.6 million.

“Communities throughout the country have already done a lot of hard work to adapt and respond to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on racial and ethnic minority, rural and vulnerable populations,” said Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health RADM Felicia Collins, M.D. “OMH and the Morehouse School of Medicine look forward to continue working with our communities to link them to the information, resources, healthcare and services needed to reduce the spread of COVID-19.”

The **Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH)**, a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, provides public health and science advice to the Secretary, and oversees the Department’s broad-ranging public health offices, whose missions include minority health, HIV policy, women’s health, disease prevention, human research protections and others. OASH also includes the Office of the Surgeon General and the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps.

The **Office of Minority Health (OMH)** is dedicated to improving the health of racial and ethnic minority populations through the development of health policies and programs that will help eliminate health disparities.

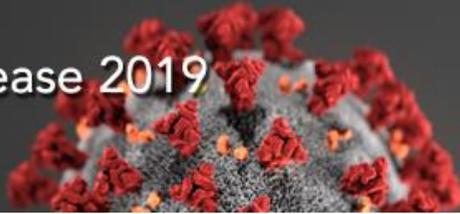
For more information about the Office of Minority Health visit:

www.minorityhealth.hhs.gov



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

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)



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

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.

Food and Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Coronaviruses, like the one that causes COVID-19, are thought to spread mostly [person-to-person](#) through respiratory droplets when someone coughs, sneezes, or talks. Currently, there is no evidence to suggest that handling food or consuming food is associated with COVID-19.

[More Info](#)

Highlighted Resources

[An Approach for Monitoring and Evaluating Community Mitigation Strategies for COVID-19](#)

[Testing Data in the U.S.](#)

[Suggestions for Youth and Summer Camps](#)

[Spanish Communication Resources](#)

[Interim Guidance for Public Health Professionals Managing People With COVID-19 in Home Care and Isolation Who Have Pets or Other Animals](#)

[More Updates](#)

Resources and Guidance

[Communities, Schools, and Businesses](#)

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

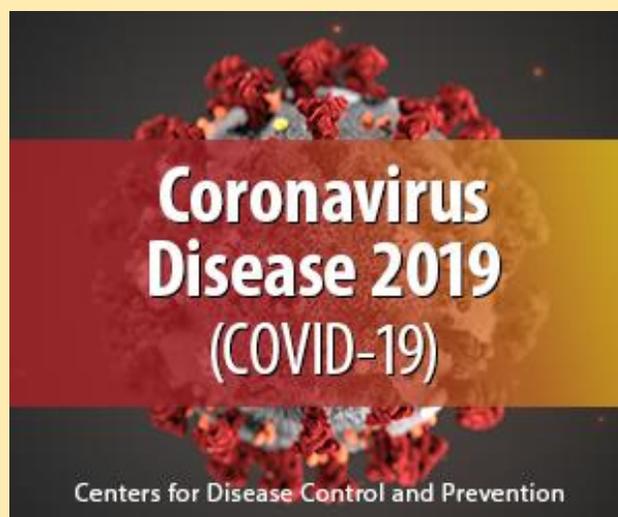
[Travel](#)

[State and Local Public Health Professionals](#)

[Healthcare Professionals](#)

[Laboratories](#)

[Resources in American Sign Language](#) 



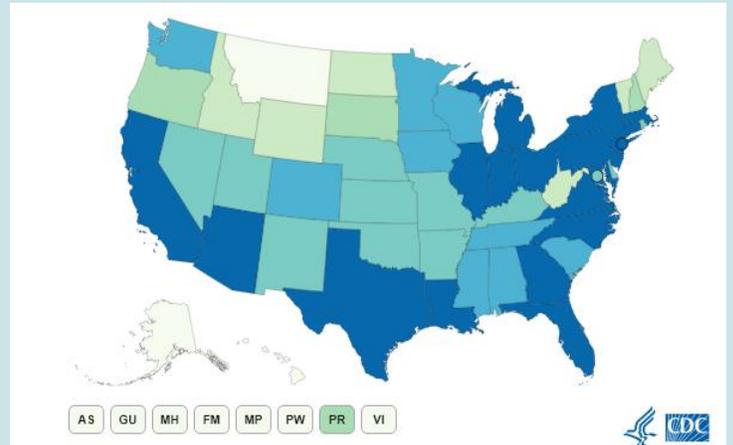
Resources are also available in [Spanish](#), [Simplified Chinese](#), [Vietnamese](#), and [Korean](#).

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

As of June 22, 2020

In the United States, there have been 2,275,645 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

[Questions or Problems](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)



Primary Health Care Digest

June 23, 2020

Today with Macrae: Health Center Program Updates

Join Jim for updates on COVID-19 and other topics, such as our multi-year transformation effort to advance community health.

Monday, June 29

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

[Join the webinar the day of the session*](#)

Call-in: 888-790-1820

Passcode: 4511897

**NOTE: This link will be accessible only to the first 1,500 participants. If you cannot log in for the visual portion, please still call in!*



Missed our most recent Today with Macrae calls? We post the recordings and transcripts on our [COVID-19 Information for Health Centers and Partners webpage](#) as soon as we're able.



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

What's New

Look-Alike Designation Periods Ending in Fiscal Year 2021 Extended

To provide flexibility during this time of COVID-19 pandemic response, HRSA extended the designation periods of the majority of health center look-alikes scheduled to complete a Renewal of Designation (RD) in fiscal year (FY) 2021. Look-alikes whose current three-year designation period ends in FY 2021 will receive a 12-month extension and will complete an Annual Certification rather than an RD in FY 2021. HRSA notified each of the affected look-alikes about the extended designation period through a Notice of Look-alike Designation.

Based on statutory requirements, look-alikes in a current one-year designation period will still complete an FY 2021 RD. Submit any questions via the [BPHC Contact Form](#).

Quarterly 340B Program Registration

Quarterly 340B Program site registration is open from July 1 to 15. Health centers will still be able to register a site that has been verified as implemented and with a site status reflected as "active" in HRSA's Electronic Handbooks (EHBs) Form 5B through August 21. After that date, the system will close to prepare for the October 1 start. [Email the 340B call center](#) or call 888-340-2787 (Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. ET) to register a new site or ask questions.

You will need to provide the following information when calling:

- Health center name.
- Site/clinic name.
- Site IDs for all sites.

Technical Assistance & Training



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

Through June 30

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](#)

HRSA Fiscal and Grants Management Best Practices for Health Centers

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](#)

Manager Training for Employee Engagement

Hosted by the STAR² Center (part of The

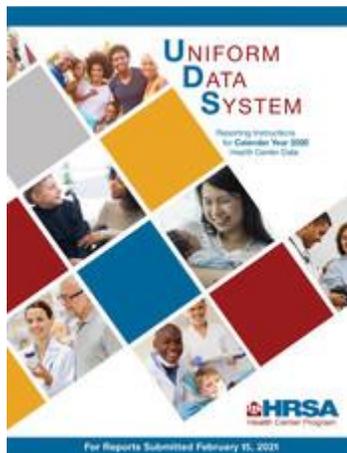
- HRSA/BPHC grant number.
- Contact name and email address.
- Authorizing official name and email address.

The authorizing official will receive an email message that the account is unlocked and a registration may be submitted.

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.

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. [Get more information on 2020 UDS reporting.](#)



Service Area Competition Notices of Funding Opportunity Released for January 1 and February 1 Starts

- **Service areas with a January 1, 2021, project period start date:** HRSA released the FY 2021 Service Area Competition (SAC) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), HRSA-21-002. This NOFO announces services areas where the current award recipient is in a 1-year project period that ends December 31. Applications are due in [Grants.gov](#) by 11:59 p.m. ET on Monday, August 17, and in EHBs by 5:00 p.m. ET on Monday, September 14.
- **Service areas with a February 1, 2021, project period start date:** HRSA released the FY 2021 SAC NOFO, HRSA-21-003. This NOFO announces service areas where the current award recipient is in a 1-year project period that ends January 31, 2021. Applications are due in [Grants.gov](#) by 11:59 p.m. ET on Monday, August 17, and in EHBs by 5:00 p.m. ET on Wednesday, September 16.

Current award recipients should refer to box 6 of the most recent Notice of Award to obtain their project period length and end date. Technical assistance (TA) materials are available on the [SAC TA webpage](#).

SAC-Additional Area NOFO Released for Newark, NJ

HRSA released a FY 2021 SAC-Additional Area (SAC-AA) NOFO, HRSA-21-084, for the Newark, New Jersey service area. Applications are due in [Grants.gov](#) by

Association of Clinicians for the Underserved, a HRSA-funded NTTAP)

Part 1:
Tuesday, June 23
1:00-2:00 p.m. ET
[Register here](#)

Part 2:
Tuesday, June 30
1:00-2:00 p.m. ET
[Register here](#)

Returning to Primary Care: Diabetes Care During a Public Health Crisis
Hosted by NACHC, a HRSA-funded NTTAP

Part 3:
Wednesday, June 24
1:00-2:00 p.m. ET
[Register here](#)

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](#)

The Joint Commission Standards: COVID-19 and PCMH Standards

Hosted by The Joint Commission
Wednesday, June 24
2:00-3:00 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: Promising Practices: Reducing Talent Burnout & Increasing Workforce Resiliency

Hosted by NACHC, a HRSA-funded NTTAP
Thursday, June 25
1:00-2:00 p.m. ET
[Visit NACHC's website to register or view](#)

11:59 p.m. ET on Monday, August 17, and in EHBs by 5:00 p.m. ET on Tuesday, September 1. TA materials are available on the [SAC-AA TA webpage](#).

HRSA Healthy Grants Web Series

HRSA's Office of Federal Assistance Management (OFAM) launched its Healthy Grants Web Series this month. This Adobe Connect series will provide presentations on the most requested grants management topics. [Learn more](#) and [join an upcoming web workshop](#).



Interim Guidance for Immunization Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic

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.



Verify Your Sites by Sunday, July 5

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 for verifying your health center's PCMH status](#) and, if needed, [instructions for submitting an update](#).



COVID-19

HHS Requests Information About Public Health and Health System Adaptation for COVID-19

HHS issued a [Request for Information \(RFI\)](#) to gather feedback about how public health and health systems have adapted to address COVID-19. The request asks for opportunities to strengthen the U.S. health care system through partnerships in data sharing and analytics.

Frequently Asked Questions

We continually update our [COVID-19 FAQ webpage](#) and 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.

[past recordings](#)

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

Clinical Leaders Peer-to-Peer Forum: Leading Together in Uncertain Times

Thursday, June 25

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

[Join the day of the session](#)

Today with Macrae: Health Center Program Updates

Monday, June 29

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

[Join the webinar the day of the session*](#)

Call-in: 888-790-1820

Passcode: 4511897

*NOTE: This link will be accessible only to the first 1,500 participants. If you cannot log in for the visual portion, please still call in!

Health Information Technology, Evaluation, and Quality (HITEQ) Center Highlights: Shared Care Planning Optimization Using the EHR

Hosted by HITEQ, a HRSA-funded NTTAP

Tuesday, June 30

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

[Register here](#)

AHRQ Cross-Sectional Innovation to Improve Rural Postpartum Mental Health Challenge

Hosted by AHRQ

Tuesday, June 30

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

[Register here](#)

Upcoming

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

HRSA Fiscal and Grants Management Best Practices for Health Centers
BPHC and OFAM are hosting a webinar highlighting key fiscal aspects to provide health centers with strategies to ensure compliance and properly manage all HRSA funding, including COVID-19-related awards (H8C, H8D, and H8E).

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

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 they will discuss these key items:

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

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

COVID-19 Survey Deadline is 11:59 p.m. ET TODAY

As a reminder, the survey you received on Friday, June 19, is due by 11:59 p.m. ET today. We recently created a [User Guide](#) to assist you in completing the survey. If you missed it, [see the recent bulletin](#) we sent discussing the survey link.



As always, we're grateful to all of the health centers and look-alikes that complete these weekly surveys! The input is invaluable—it allows us to better understand training and technical assistance, funding, and other health center resource needs. Using it, we can track COVID-19's impact on health center operations, staff, and patients.

Updated Guidance for Health Care Facilities: Managing Operations During the COVID-19 Pandemic

CDC updated its [guidance for health care facilities](#) to reflect the current understanding of health care systems and facilities for managing operations during the pandemic.

Reimagining Care: Reducing Talent Burnout & Increasing Workforce Resiliency

The "Reimagining Care" series from the National Association of Community

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****

PCMH Office Hours: COVID-19, Reopening and What's Next

Hosted by the National Committee for Quality Assurance
Wednesday, July 8
10:00-11:00 a.m. ET

[Register here](#)

****NEW DATE** 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, July 10

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

[Register here](#)

Introduction to the UDS Mapper

Monday, July 13

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

[Register here](#)

Introduction to Hepatitis B: Testing and Best Practices

Wednesday, July 15

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

[Register here](#)

PCA New Project Period Kick-Off Call

Thursday, July 16

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

HRSA will email connection information to participants.

VBP Contracting Safeguards

Hosted by NACHC, a HRSA-funded NTTAP
Part of the Accountable Care Academy
Wednesday, July 15

3:00-4:00 p.m. ET

[Visit NACHC's site for registration](#)

[information](#) (find this series under "Upcoming Operations Management Webinars.")

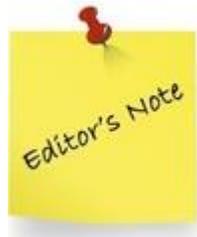
Health Centers (NACHC), a HRSA-funded National Training and Technical Assistance Partner (NTTAP), focuses on how health centers will continue to lead the primary health care industry through flexibility and innovation in a post-COVID-19 world.

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 Boards Resources

Visit the [Health Center Resource Clearinghouse COVID-19 page](#) and select “Governance” to find information from NACHC on virtual board meetings, financial oversight, and strategic considerations given the current public health emergency. Additional resources will be released soon on financial oversight for boards.

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

UDS Mapper Advanced Topic: Data Resources in the UDS Mapper

Tuesday, July 28
11:00 a.m.-noon ET
[Register here](#)

Field Representative Stories

Hosted by NACHC, a HRSA-funded NTTAP
Part of the Accountable Care Academy
Wednesday, July 29
3:00-4:00 p.m. ET
[Visit NACHC's site for registration information](#) (find this series under “Upcoming Operations Management Webinars.”)

Introduction to the UDS Mapper

Tuesday, August 4
11:00 a.m.-noon ET
[Register here](#)

Introduction to the UDS Mapper

Wednesday, September 2
2:00-3:00 p.m. ET
[Register here](#)

UDS Mapper Advanced Topic Webinar: New Features in the UDS Mapper

Thursday, September 17
2:00-3:00 p.m. ET
[Register here](#)

UDS Mapper Special Topic Webinar: Food Insecurity and Opportunities for Health Centers

Wednesday, September 23
2:00-3:00 p.m. ET
[Register here](#)

Webinars are hosted by HRSA unless otherwise noted.

Provider Relief Fund, grants management, and staffing. The first four sessions are available now, including the most recent, "Health Center Funding, Reporting, and Grants Management Considerations."

Re-Opening Dental Practices During COVID-19: Legal Analysis

This [publication by NACHC](#) includes considerations for health centers in determining the re-opening of dental services during the COVID-19 pandemic. It provides brief analysis of FTCA coverage, malpractice liability, CDC guidance, and applicable OSHA rules. It is also available in Spanish via the same link.

New Health Center Leadership Video Series Recording

In the sixth video in [NACHC's series](#), Wil Franklin, MS, LPC, President & Chief Executive Officer at KC CARE Health Center in Kansas City, MO, reminds leaders that knowing the organization's mission and values will help focus their attention on 1) their people as their most valuable resource, 2) health and safety, and 3) showing up in new and different ways for their patients.

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](#).

Cross-Sectional Innovation to Improve Rural Postpartum Mental Health Challenge

One in seven mothers experiences a postpartum mental health condition, defined as the onset of depression or anxiety within one year of birth. The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is holding a [competition to improve postpartum mental health care for rural American families](#). Learn more at an upcoming webinar:

Tuesday, June 30
2:00-3:30 p.m. ET
[Register here](#)

NOFO 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

HHS recently announced [Albertsons Companies and Walmart will support Ending the HIV Epidemic](#) by donating dispensing services to the [Ready, Set, PrEP program](#). These pharmacies will also assist patients with medication adherence.

Diabetes

Cooking in the Colors of the Rainbow – Preventing Diabetes Through Healthy Eating

Farmworker Justice, a HRSA-funded NTTAP, developed [a coloring book for agricultural worker families](#) that promotes healthy eating as a way to prevent diabetes. It is available in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole.

Workforce

Clinical Leaders Peer-to-Peer Forum: Leading Together in Uncertain Times

Dr. Luis Padilla, associate administrator of HRSA's Bureau of Health Workforce, invites clinical leaders in rural and underserved communities to join a discussion with peers about issues related to telehealth, student training staffing models, and provider wellness.

Thursday, June 25
2:00-3:00 p.m. ET
[Join the day of the session](#)



Your Input Needed!

HRSA recently published two RFIs. We will collect feedback on the areas of consideration outlined in the RFIs, as well as more general feedback or suggestions, through Friday, September 18.



- **Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) Scoring Criteria RFI:**

HRSA seeks public input and feedback to inform policy considerations related to changes to HPSA scoring criteria and on possible additions or alternative approaches to HPSA scoring, as well as to solicit additional ideas and suggestions.

- **Maternity Care Health Professional Target Area Criteria RFI:**

HRSA seeks public input and feedback to inform policy considerations related to the establishment of criteria for Maternity Care Health Professional Target Areas and to solicit additional ideas and suggestions related to the RFI's topic areas.

Additional Resources

Introduction to Hepatitis B: Testing and Best Practices

Learn about the epidemiology of Hepatitis B virus (HBV), including perinatal HBV and the natural history of HBV. Experts will also discuss the recommended screenings for HBV infection and interpretation of testing results to support early intervention and improved patient outcomes.

Wednesday, July 15

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

[Register here](#)

Medical-Legal Partnership Guide for Organizations Serving Agricultural Workers

Farmworker Justice and the National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership (both HRSA-funded NTTAPs) published an updated [Medical-Legal Partnership Guide for Agricultural Worker-Serving Organizations](#). It includes strategies and resources to develop or strengthen such partnerships in agricultural worker communities. This guide is an updated version of a guide originally published in 2013.

In case you missed it:

[Visit the Primary Health Care Digest archive.](#)

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 is an important resource to help Americans looking for substance abuse treatment for themselves or their loved ones find the right type of treatment.