

HEALTHCARE COUNCIL REGIONAL COVID-19 UPDATE

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Happy Thanksgiving Week! Below you will find The Healthcare Council's COVID-19 Update for November 24, 2020.

We work with local organizations to help with supply needs through our ShareSource (formerly NCASS) division. Please contact us directly at **301-731-4700** if there are ways we can help you get the supplies you need.



Guidelines, Information, and Policies Updates:

- US deaths due to the coronavirus surpassed 250,000 this week and cases are continuing to surge in many areas of the country. [Full story here.](#)
- With the load of coronavirus patients rising and some hospitals reaching capacity, Maryland officials plan to ramp up a program that makes it easier to move patients among hospitals. [More from the Baltimore Sun here.](#)
- Local radio giant WTOP is tracking the coronavirus throughout the DC metro area with updates several times a day. [Follow the WTOP coverage here.](#)
- CMS released an update to the *Coverage and Reimbursement of COVID-19 Vaccines, Vaccine Administration and Cost Sharing under Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program, and Basic Health Program vaccine toolkit* that was originally released on October 28. [Link to the full announcement is here.](#)
- There was more good news in terms of both therapeutic and vaccine related treatments for COVID-19. The Food and Drug Administration granted emergency authorization to Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s [experimental antibody treatment](#) and drugmaker AstraZeneca PLC said the experimental coronavirus vaccine it developed with the University of Oxford was 70 percent effective, on average, at preventing COVID-19 and that a particular dosing plan was 90 percent effective in an early analysis of late-stage trials.
- The AstraZeneca news comes after last week's promising news from [Pfizer](#) and [Moderna, Inc.](#)
- The first Americans could "hopefully" begin receiving coronavirus vaccines as soon as Dec. 11 or 12, according to Moncef Slaoui, who leads Operation Warp Speed, the federal government's initiative on coronavirus vaccine and treatments. [Full story on timing of vaccine distribution can be found here.](#)
- In even more vaccine news, the FDA has authorized the first at-home coronavirus test, a nose-swab test that can be run in just 30 minutes. It requires a prescription for now and has not yet been evaluated for asymptomatic people. [More on the story here.](#)
- Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan (R), who spent \$9.46 million in state funding this spring for 500,000 [coronavirus tests](#) from South Korea, spent another \$2.5 million on replacement tests when the initial batch turned out to be faulty and unusable.
- The NIH is expanding research to help improve COVID-19 testing in under-served and vulnerable areas. [Details of the initiative here.](#)

Education, Learning, and Resources

A look at some of the upcoming meetings and webinars in the weeks ahead.

- **Fox 5 DC Story of Interest:** Roberts Oxygen, a local dry ice company and a Healthcare Council partner, is hoping to help with the coronavirus vaccine storage effort. [Watch the segment here.](#)
- **How to Manage Burnout and Ensure Quality Care:** Link to a free webinar sponsored by Medical Solutions and Modern Healthcare [can be found here.](#)
- **Executive Briefing Series Virtual Conference:** Dixon, Hughes, Goodman LLP (a Healthcare Council partner) has a virtual series on **December 8 and 10** with the title “Addressing the Issues of Today; Building a Vision for Tomorrow.” Details on how to register [can be found here.](#)
- **2021 Virtual Virginia Patient Safety Summit:** Thursday, February 25, 2021 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Details to come, but those interested in sharing safety and quality improvement initiatives can [contact the summit organizers here.](#)

General Information and Data Sources:

Resources for National and Regional Up-to-the-Minute Data and Information:

- [Johns Hopkins University global COVID-19 Tracker](#)
- Latest Case data for each state can be found at these websites:
 - [Maryland](#)
 - [Virginia](#)
 - [District of Columbia](#)
 - [West Virginia](#)
- State Hospital Association information can be found at these websites:
 - [Maryland Hospital Association](#)
 - [Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association](#)
 - [DC Hospital Association](#)
 - [West Virginia Hospital Association](#)

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