

# HEALTHCARE COUNCIL REGIONAL COVID-19 UPDATE

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The Healthcare Council has been providing regular updates on the COVID-19 pandemic since middle of March. This week's certainly feels like a major milestone on two fronts. First, the death toll from the virus surpassed the staggering number of 300,000, making the pandemic the cause of more death in the United States than WWI, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and 9/11 combined. Yet this week also brought incredibly encouraging news as the first emergency-authorized doses of a COVID-19 vaccine were administered to a group of healthcare workers on Monday. With more vaccines headed across the country every day, there is reason to feel optimistic that there is light at the end of the tunnel. As always, we recognize the work being done around the country by our hospitals and health care facilities. We thank you for all of your work.

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

This will be the final edition of the COVID-19 Update for 2020. Publication will resume after the holidays on January 6, 2021



*happy holidays*

## **Guidelines, Information, and Policies Updates:**

- An ICU nurse from New York was among the first Americans to be given the COVID-19 vaccine on Monday. [Read about Sandra Lindsay receiving the first round of the vaccine.](#)
- The AHA, AMA, and ANA issued a joint letter urging health care professionals to get the COVID-19 vaccine. [Read the letter here.](#)
- On Tuesday the NIH received over-the-counter authorization from the FDA for an at-home COVID-19 test. [Details here.](#)
- AHA Special Bulletin: there is movement on the latest round of COVID relief from congress, including provisions that would provide funding for health care workers and vaccines. [Full analysis from the AHA Bulletin here.](#)
- AHA Special Bulletin 2: the AHA issued a statement on the surprise medical billing legislation earlier this week. [Read the Bulletin.](#)
- AHA President Rick Pollack issued a statement on the emergency-authorization of the first COVID-19 vaccine. [Read President Pollack's statement.](#)
- There is an update to the HHS COVID-19 data reporting guidelines. [See the updates here.](#)
- President-elect Joe Biden has tapped Jeffery Zients to be his Coronavirus Czar. [Read more about Jeff Zients here.](#)

- Joe Biden will nominate California Attorney General Xavier Becerra to lead HHS and Dr. Rochelle Walensky to head the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- In light of the first vaccines now being administered, the U.S. government is in talks with Pfizer and Moderna to opt-in to options to buy as many as 3 billion doses across 6 manufacturers. [Read more from Bloomberg](#).
- Here are five ways for health care organizations to address their telehealth innovation . [More from the AHA Center for Health Innovation](#).

### **Education, Learning, and Resources**

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

- **Dolly Parton, Kelly Clarkson, Billie Eilish, Leslie Odom Jr, and more:** a special concert is being made available exclusively to front-line caregivers and patients from December 9 through January 6. [Find out how to get the link 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](#).
- **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](#)