

# HEALTHCARE COUNCIL REGIONAL COVID-19 UPDATE

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Updates through March 31 can be found below. CMS has issued a lot of new guidelines in the past couple of days and we have summarized and linked to them below. As always, if you have information you would like us to include in these updates, please contact us with a short message and link. Don't forget to follow us on Twitter for updates throughout each day @HCNCA



## **New national guidelines and policies updates:**

- The Trump Administration is asking for unprecedented data sharing by hospitals in an effort to combat the coronavirus. [Letter from Vice President Pence to Hospital Administrators](#)
- Administration is also making sweeping regulatory changes in healthcare. [Full CMS statement here](#). The changes complement and augment the work of FEMA and state and local public health authorities. CMS's temporary actions empower local hospitals and healthcare systems to:
  - ◆ Increase hospital capacity – CMS Hospitals Without Walls
  - ◆ Rapidly expand the Healthcare Workforce
  - ◆ Put patients over paperwork
  - ◆ Further promote telehealth in Medicare.
- More CMS waiver guidelines found in [this CMS briefing from March 31](#).
- CMS is temporarily authorizing hospitals to transfer patients to a range of outside facilities providing "hospital-like care," including hotels, dormitories and inpatient rehabilitation hospitals to help ease the burden on hospitals overwhelmed with COVID-19 patients.
- AHA takes [100 Million Masks Campaign](#) national.
- The AHA sent a letter to HHS regarding the \$100 billion in CARES act. [Read the letter](#).
- A reminder that the CMS nursing home telehealth and telemedicine 'toolkit' is available. [Access it here](#).

## **Regional Information and Information for Hospitals:**

Developments from around the MD-DC-VA area.

- Montgomery County (MD) has approved a local rescue package that includes \$10m for hospitals county hospitals. [Details here](#).
- Cases continue to grow in the region and as of Monday evening, Maryland, Virginia, and DC are all under 'stay at home' orders.

## **Purchasing through National Capital Area Shared Services:**

Contact us directly at **301-731-4700** if there are ways we can help you get the supplies you need.

- **Supply Orders:** the Healthcare Council is (still!) placing orders for local hospitals and healthcare organizations for a wide

range of products and supplies. If we can help your organization, let us know.

- **Helpful purchasing guide:** Performance Healthcare Solutions has a purchasing guide ([access pdf here](#)) for the COVID-19 crisis. Helpful information for healthcare organizations.
- **The 'Psychophysiological Principle':** The Synergy Organization, one of our purchasing partners, has a helpful guide for helping healthcare workers deal with the stresses of this crisis. A very good read that might be interesting for your employees. [Read here](#).

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

We will continue to look for ways we can help with education and learning needs as well as be a resource for the variety of needs you may have during this crisis:

- **Regional HR video:** The Healthcare Council hosted an HR video conference call on Monday and it was a productive hour where HR leadership from many healthcare facilities had a chance to share with and learn from each other. We will continue these calls on a weekly basis. If there are other executive, administrative or departmental offices that might benefit from this kind of activity, we will be happy to set up calls for anyone interested. To arrange a call, please contact Chris Howard at [cnhoward@healthcare-council.org](mailto:cnhoward@healthcare-council.org).
- **Healthcare Workforce Logistics** is offering a rapid response staffing program to help meet urgent staffing needs during this crisis. Healthcare Council HR Leaders received an email about this opportunity last week. More information can be found here <https://blog.hwlmosp.com/hwl-launches-covid-19-rapid-response-staffing-program>

### **General Information 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](#)
- State Hospital Association information can be found at these websites:
  - ◆ [Maryland Hospital Association](#)
  - ◆ [Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association](#)
  - ◆ [DC Hospital Association](#)
- [Morning Consult Resource Page](#)

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