

# HEALTHCARE COUNCIL REGIONAL COVID-19 UPDATE

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As we enter the final week in May, the Healthcare Council would like to thank you again for all your work. Please find below some important updates from over the weekend.



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

- Public perceptions about the coronavirus pandemic appear to be shifting. According to Morning Consult tracking poll, the share of Americans who are “very” concerned about the spread of the coronavirus is at 53 percent, its lowest point since mid-March, when concern about the pandemic initially spiked. Furthermore, 26 percent of Americans say there is a “severe” health risk in their local community, down from a high of 41 percent in early April.
- Providers now will have 90 days, increased from 45 days, from the date they receive a payment to attest and accept the terms and conditions or return the funds. [Details from HHS can be found here.](#)
- Nursing homes are now in line to receive more than \$5 billion in federal funding to help fight the COVID-19 crisis. [Read the details here](#) and see the [HHS full announcement here.](#)
- The American Hospital Association put out an Executive Summary report on how COVID-19 could impact hospital credit ratings. [AHA Executive Summary can be found here.](#)
- STAT, a media organization that focuses on the medical field, has an article explaining the most important ways the COVID-19 crisis may forever upend the U.S. healthcare system. [Read the full article.](#)
- Several large healthcare companies, including Ballad Health and Premier Inc., have teamed-up to launch a new program to invest in innovative domestic manufacturing. [Read more about this initiative.](#)
- More potential good news regarding Remdesivir as tool to fight the coronavirus. [Read the report here.](#)
- It's not surprising, but April was official the worst month in history for hospital operating margins. Hospitals' median operating margins fell a whopping 282% compared to last year according to Kaufman Hall data.

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

Developments from around the MD-DC-VA area.

- Deaths in our region have now surpassed 4,000 and total cases are nearing 100,000.
- On June 1, two new testing sites will open in the District of Columbia: 1) 2241 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, SE (replacing UMC testing site); 2) Walk-up site on 5th Street NW between F and G Streets, NW
- Howard County (MD) and parts of Northern Virginia are the latest regional areas to announce phase 1 opening plans. [Details of the Howard County plan are here.](#) [Virginia plans can be found here.](#)
- The District of Columbia had some changes to their plans, but they now also plan to reopen in phases starting Friday. [See the DC guidelines.](#)

### **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.

- Delivery of critical equipment from orders purchased through the Healthcare Council continues to arrive at facilities each week. We are committed to continue our efforts to help area healthcare organizations in our area.

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

Updates and details below

- **Preparing for 2<sup>nd</sup> Wave:** Healthcare experts are chiming in on how to best prepare for a potential second wave of the coronavirus. [Read the article 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](#)
- [Morning Consult Resource Page](#)

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