

FLORIDA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE

COVID-19 Update

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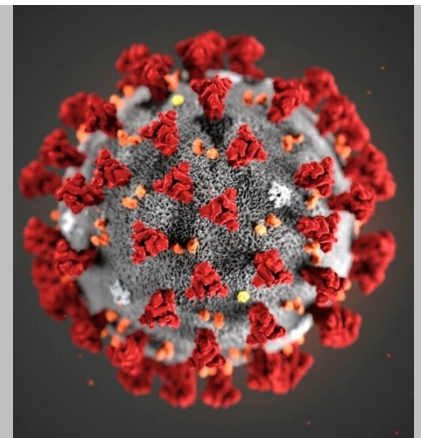
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The Florida Hospital Association (FHA) is monitoring data, reports and resources on the respiratory disease outbreak caused by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) from our state, federal and local partners, including information from the Florida Department of Health (DOH), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO). For additional resources, please refer to [FHA's COVID-19 webpage](#).



March 9, 2020

Important Data

[Cases in the U.S.](#)

[Cases in Florida](#)

[Affected International Areas](#)

**Governor's Livestreamed
Press Conferences
[@GovRonDeSantis](#)**

FHA Resources

[FHA COVID-19 webpage](#)

[FHA Statement on COVID-19](#)

CMS Fact Sheets & FAQs

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has created fact sheets for [Medicare](#), [Medicaid](#), the [Children's Health Insurance Program](#) and some [individual and small group market private insurance plans](#) that explain coverage for COVID-19-related health care services.

CMS also issued [frequently asked questions and answers \(FAQs\)](#) for health care providers regarding Medicare payment for laboratory tests and other services related to the 2019-Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

CMS Releases Second Laboratory Billing Code

CMS [released](#) a second Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System code for laboratories to use to bill for certain COVID-19 diagnostic tests in an effort to increase testing and track new cases. Medicare will accept these codes starting April 1.

AHCA Alert on Diagnosis Codes and Lab Testing

The Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) released an alert that the Florida Medicaid program will cover all medically necessary services required to facilitate testing and treatment of COVID-19. View additional details [online](#).

Health Insurers Response to COVID-19

The Florida Office of Insurance Regulation (OIR) issued a memo to all health insurers authorized to do business in Florida to help facilitate the state's ongoing efforts to protect Floridians. [Read more](#).

Florida Blue is waiving member costs for COVID-19 testing and maintenance medication refill limits, offering counseling and encouraging virtual care for less serious medical issues. [Read more](#).

America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP) [said](#) it is taking action to ensure plans cover COVID-19 diagnostic testing and reduce service barriers, such as prior-authorization and cost-sharing. AHIP also is encouraging the use of telehealth and at-home care to widen access.

EMS Protocol Guidance

CDC issued guidance for all first responders, including law enforcement, fire services, emergency medical services and emergency management officials, who anticipate close contact with persons with confirmed or possible COVID-19 in the course of their work. [Read more](#).

CDC's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health Web Page

CDC and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health have developed a [web page](#) to highlight resources available for the protection of workers.

HHS to Procure N95 Respirators to Support Health Care Workers in COVID-19 Outbreaks

[Patient Safety Awareness Week webinars](#)

FHA's Quality Hot Topic Call 3.4.20: [slides](#) | e-mail [Debbie Hegarty](#) for the recording

[Contact FHA Incident Management Team](#)

Agency for Health Care Administration

[Online Emergency Reporting System \(ESS\)](#)

If you need help with ESS, please contact your AHCA licensing unit, Hospital & Outpatient Services Unit, at 850-412-4549.

Florida Dept. of Health [@HealthyFla](#)

3/1/20: [Executive Office of the Governor Order 20-51](#) directing a Public Health Emergency and statewide response protocol

COVID-19 Call Center

Hours: Mon.-Fri., 8-5
1-(866) 779-6121
COVID-19@flhealth.gov

[DOH COVID-19 website](#)

[County Health Department Epidemiology contacts](#)

[DOH Visitor Screening Guidance](#)

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

[CDC COVID-19 webpage](#)

[Information for Health Care Professionals](#)

[Patient Safety](#)

As part of the government-wide efforts to respond to the global outbreak of COVID-19, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services intends to purchase 500 million N95 respirators over the next 18 months for the Strategic National Stockpile. [Read more.](#)

ASPR PPE Calculator

It is important for the supply chain to avoid behaviors such as overordering and duplicative ordering. The [Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) calculator](#) developed by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response (ASPR) includes guidance for SARS, MERS and "novel influenza."

Infographics from DOH & CDC

DOH and CDC have developed infographics on a variety of topics, such as contact tracing, prevention measures including handwashing, visitor screening, social distancing, international travel and more that can be displayed in hospital common areas and on social media platforms.

[DOH Infographics](#)

[CDC Communication Resources](#)

WHO Says 20 Vaccines in Development

WHO reported [20 COVID-19 vaccines are in development](#), and several clinical trials of therapeutics are underway. WHO is monitoring active pharmaceutical components made in affected countries in case an effective treatment is found using those ingredients.

ICYMI: Recent News Clips

Politico Pro | Susannah Luthi | 3/5/20

[Insurers promise to cover coronavirus tests, relax coverage policies](#)

A major health insurance trade group is pledging its member plans will cover doctor-ordered testing for the coronavirus amid rising confusion and concern about who will bear the cost of care in an outbreak. America's Health Insurance Plans made the commitment today, although it's still unclear when insurers might have to start paying for tests. So far, the CDC has picked up the tab for coronavirus diagnostics. The cost picture is expected to become more complicated as more private labs and academic medical centers launch their own testing. Today alone, commercial labs Quest Diagnostics, LabCorp and BioReference Laboratories announced they'd launch testing for the virus.

Florida Politics | A.G. Gancarski | 3/9/20

[Budget Conference: \\$25M for Coronavirus, with More Available if Needed](#)

The Senate agreed to the House position on coronavirus funding, and the hope is that \$25 million will be enough. If not, says Sen. Aaron Bean, the state has ample reserves and means to access them. "The exact number I believe is \$25 million that we will give to the Department of Health," Bean told Florida Politics Monday, "which is what the Governor's been advocating for."

FHA Patient Safety Virtual Learning Series

As Florida's hospitals work diligently to respond to the recent outbreak of COVID-19, infection prevention remains a high priority. FHA will provide a series of resources to support our hospitals' efforts to stop the spread of infections.

This week, the Association will host a virtual learning series that includes key safety topics

[Travelers Arriving in the U.S.](#)

[Communications Resources](#)

Patient/visitor information: Multilingual [CDC infographics](#) are available as helpful examples to display in hospitals.

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Infection Prevention Guidance for [Hospitals](#) | [Nursing Homes](#)

[CMS Coding Guidance](#)

World Health Organization

[Situation Dashboard](#)

[Global Situation Dashboard](#)

[Technical Guidance](#)

[Rolling Updates](#)

[Situation Reports](#)

such as improving hand hygiene practices, the latest information on infection disease guidance and engaging patients and their families in care plans and how workforce resilience impacts patient safety. View more information and [register for these free events](#) online.

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