

Dear Colleagues:

We are now halfway through the [15 Days to Slow the Spread](#) strategy and continue to encourage everyone to do their part to flatten the curve. FEMA, HHS and Federal partners are continuing to work closely with the private sector, state, local, tribal and territorial partners for a multi-layered public health response.

Today's information and guidance includes:

How Can We Continue to Try to Expand the Healthcare Workforce? Secretary Azar sent a letter to all Governors encouraging them to extend the capacity of their state healthcare workforce to address the pandemic. Examples of key strategies that the Secretary asks states to take action on include allowing health professionals to practice across state lines, to offer telehealth across state lines, and relaxing scope of practice requirements.

What Additional Actions Can FDA Take To Increase Supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)? The FDA released new [instructions to manufacturers](#) and importers to clarify the types of PPE that can be imported without engaging with FDA. The FDA has adjusted our import screening to further expedite imports of legitimate products and are continually monitoring our import systems to prevent and mitigate any potential issues. The FDA established a special email inbox, COVID19FDAIMPORTINQUIRIES@fda.hhs.gov, for industry representatives to quickly communicate with the agency and address questions or concerns.

How Can We Help to Address Mental Health Concerns? As the stress related to COVID-19 increases, CDC has updated their webpage on how to [manage anxiety and stress](#) during this uncertain time and SAMHSA has resources as well which can be found [here](#).

How to Prepare for COVID-19 If You are Older? CDC created a [checklist](#) for older people that addresses how to protect yourself, prepare for COVID-19, what to do if you get sick and how to prepare caregivers.

What New Flexibilities and Information Has CMS Released for Marketplace and Individual Market Coverage? CMS will [extend grace periods](#) by exercising enforcement discretion to permit issuers of qualified health plans (QHPs) and stand-alone dental plans (SADPs) to extend payment deadlines for initial binder payments as well as ongoing premium payments during the period of the COVID-19 national emergency. FAQ documents were also released on the availability and usage of [telehealth for private coverage](#) and [prescription drug coverage](#) in the small group and individual marketplace.

What Types of Flexibilities are States Receiving from 1135 Medicaid Waivers? CMS announced the approval of [11 additional Section 1135 Medicaid waivers](#) for states to allow them additional flexibility around prior authorization and provider enrollment requirements, suspending certain nursing home pre-admission reviews, and facilitating reimbursement to providers for care delivered in alternative settings due to facility evacuations.

What Types of Funding are Key Human Services Programs Receiving? HRSA awarded [\\$100 million to 1,381 federally-qualified health centers](#) across the country to address screening and testing needs, acquire medical supplies and boost telehealth capacity in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Administration for Community Living awarded \$250 million in grants to communities to provide meals

for older adults. The Administration for Children and Families released [program instruction](#) to help states address questions and flexibilities provided by TANF.

What Other Funding has been Released? Yesterday, tribal communities received funding from IHS and today [\\$100 million was released to aid US healthcare systems](#) through the National Special Pathogen System.

Need Posters for Your Facility? CDC has created a number of [printable infographics](#) and resources that you can hang on the walls in your office, facility or use to inform others about COVID-19 and best practices for washing hands and if you are feeling sick.

We continue the fight and are thankful for your partnership. It is amazing to see how Americans all over are finding ways to contribute and to create community while staying home.