

HHS COVID-19 Update – May 27, 2020

Funding and Resources

\$10.25 Billion in Resources to Health Departments: CDC is [awarding \\$10.25 billion](#) to provide critical resources to states, tribal, local, and territorial health departments to detect, respond and prevent COVID-19 using funds from the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act of 2020.

Information on Financial Resources: CDC updated their [Financial Resources](#) webpage. The webpage provides information on federal fiscal resources for CDC applicants and recipients.

Testing and Treatment

Guidance on Contact Tracing: CDC updated their [Interim Guidance on Developing a COVID-19 Case Investigation & Contact Tracing Plan: Overview](#). Each of the sections in the plan that were updated include: Scaling up Staffing Roles, Training, When to Initiate, Investigating a COVID-19 Case, Contact Tracing for COVID-19, Outbreak Investigations, [Special Considerations for Health Departments](#), Building Community Support, Data Management, Evaluating Success, Confidentiality and Consent, Support Services, Digital Tracing Tools, and Resources.

Testing updates: During the COVID-19 pandemic, the FDA has worked with more than 400 test developers who have already submitted or said they will be submitting EUA requests to the FDA for tests that detect the virus or antibodies to the virus. To date, the FDA has authorized 113 tests under EUAs, which include 1 molecular tests, 12 antibody tests, and 1 antigen test.

CMS Payments for Care in Alternative Care Sites: CMS released a [Fact Sheet for State and Local Governments CMS Programs and Payments for Care in Hospital Alternative Care Sites](#). This document provides state and local governments developing alternate care sites with information on how to seek payments through CMS programs – Medicare, Medicaid, and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) – for acute inpatient and outpatient care furnished at the site.

Approval of Drug to Expand Treatment Options: The FDA approved an abbreviated new drug application (ANDA) for [succinylcholine chloride injection USP 200 mg/10 mL](#), which is indicated in addition to general anesthesia, to facilitate tracheal intubation and to provide skeletal muscle relaxation during surgery or mechanical ventilation. Side effects of succinylcholine chloride injection include anaphylaxis, hyperkalemia, and malignant hyperthermia. The FDA

recognizes the increased demand for certain products during the COVID-19 public health emergency, and we remain deeply committed to facilitating access to medical products to help address critical needs of the American public.

PPE

EUA on PPE in Healthcare Settings: The FDA issued an [Emergency Use Authorization \(EUA\)](#) in response to concerns relating to insufficient supply and availability of gowns and other apparel, such as operating-room shoe covers, for use by health care personnel as personal protective equipment (PPE) for use in health care settings in accordance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations to protect both health care personnel and patients from the transfer of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, in low or minimal risk level situations to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Reopening Information

Thermometers to States: The federal government will [distribute non-contact infrared thermometers \(NCIT\)](#) to support phased reopening of the Nation's workplaces and restarting of the American economy. NCIT are being provided to SLTT governments for further distribution to local authorities and businesses based on current conditions and their individual reopening plans and priorities. The federal government determined allocation amounts based on the estimated number of private business workplaces in each state with 50 or more employees.

Protecting Yourself While Using Transportation: CDC released information on how to [Protect Yourself When Using Transportation](#). The page includes general considerations for using all types of transportation, considerations for using public transportation, considerations for using rideshare, taxi, limo for-hire vehicle passengers, considerations for using shared bikes, scooters, skateboards, and other micro-mobility devices and considerations for using personal vehicles.

Cleaning and Disinfection Information: CDC updated their [Cleaning and Disinfection for Households](#) and their information on [Cleaning and Disinfection for Community Facilities](#). Both webpages provide information on how to clean and disinfect, what to do if exposed to someone with COVID-19, and additional considerations.

Information for Restaurants and Bars: CDC updated their [Considerations for Restaurants and Bars](#). The webpage includes guiding principles, how to reduce spread, healthy environments, healthy operations, sick employees and other resources.

Information on Pools and Water Activities: CDC updated information on [Considerations for Public Pools, Hot Tubs, and Water Playgrounds During COVID-19](#). As public aquatic venues open in some areas, CDC offers the following considerations for the safety of those who operate, manage, and use public pools, hot tubs, and water playgrounds.

Information for Employers in Office Buildings: CDC released [COVID-19 Employer Information for Office Buildings](#). Workers in office buildings may be at risk for exposure to the virus that causes coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Office building employers, building owners and managers, and building operations specialists can take steps to create a safe and healthy workplace and protect workers and clients.

COVID-19 and Hurricane Season Preparations: FEMA released their [COVID-19 Operational Guidance for the 2020 Hurricane Season](#). In preparing for the 2020 hurricane season, this document provides actionable guidance to State, Local, Tribal & Territorial officials to prepare for response and recovery operations and encourages personal preparedness measures amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. While this document focuses on hurricane season preparedness, most planning considerations can also be applied to any disaster operation in the COVID-19 environment, including no-notice incidents, spring flooding and wildfire seasons, and typhoon response.

Information for Specific Populations

Guidance for Funerals: CDC updated their [Funeral Guidance for Individuals and Families](#). This guidance is for individuals and families as they work with funeral directors, community and religious leaders, and others to plan and hold funeral services and visitations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Guidance for People who Live in Close Quarters: CDC updated their guidance for [Households Living in Close Quarters](#). This guidance is intended for people living together in close quarters, such as people who share a small apartment, or for people who live in the same household with large or extended families.

Research

Strategic Plan for COVID-19 Oversight: OIG released their [OIG Strategic Plan: Oversight of COVID-19 Response and Recovery](#). In it, they note their mission to provide objective oversight to promote the economy, efficiency, effectiveness, and integrity of HHS programs, as well as the health and welfare of the people they serve.

Impacts of Economic Impact Payments for Previously Incarcerated Individuals: ASPE released a paper on [Reducing Recidivism and Improving Reentry through Economic Impact Payments during COVID-19](#). Economic Impact Payments for individuals recently released from incarceration during the COVID-19 pandemic can increase economic independence and labor force attachment through helping cover basic expenses while individuals seek employment and get on their feet. Providing this investment during this challenging time to improve the economic productivity of those reentering can, in turn, help to reduce recidivism and improve other outcomes such as increasing child support payments and improving community safety.