

HEALTHCARE COUNCIL REGIONAL COVID-19 UPDATE

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Our weekly update on issues related to COVID-19 and how it affects the field of health care. We work with local organizations to help with supply needs through our ShareSource division.



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

Guidelines, Information, and Policies Updates:

- COVID-19 deaths passed 400,000 in the United States last week, marking a grim milestone in the pandemic.
- The D.C. region is seeing a record number of coronavirus deaths. [The Washington Post has a full report.](#)
- Biden said he hopes the United States will soon have the capacity to administer 1.5 million COVID-19 vaccines per day, upping his administration's goal to 150 million shots from 100 million doses in his first 100 days in office. [Read full story from Politico here.](#)
- Acting secretary of the HHS told governors that the country's COVID-19 public health emergency is expected to continue through the end of the year, indicating emergency Medicare and Medicaid provisions, including a federal funding increase for Medicaid, will not be ending soon.
- A special report from Morning Consult looks into the impact the pandemic has had on health care workers' daily lives and relationships. [Read full report.](#)
- Merck & Co. said it will stop development of the current formulations of its two COVID-19 vaccine candidates after they yielded weak immune responses in an early trial. [More details found here.](#)
- Federal agencies, including the Department of Defense, the CDC, and the FDA, will shore up surveillance of coronavirus variants in order to track how they affect COVID-19 vaccines and treatments, according to CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky. [Full story from Bloomberg.](#)
- Pfizer Inc. will provide the U.S. government with fewer vials of its COVID-19 vaccine than previously expected. [More on the story here.](#)
- UnitedHealth Group Inc., the parent company of the UnitedHealthcare insurer and the Optum health services business, saw its profits slip in the last quarter of 2020 as patients sought health care in greater numbers after putting it off earlier in the pandemic.
- President Joe Biden signed a dozen executive orders or [actions targeted at the pandemic](#), including the creation of a national pandemic testing board and a requirement that people traveling through airports and other forms of public transportation wear masks.
- Will COVID-19 Wring Low-Value Healthcare out of the System? [Managed Healthcare Executive takes a look at the issue.](#)
- Virginia hospitals have administered more than 234,000 doses of the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines in the five weeks since the Commonwealth received the first shipment of doses in mid-December. [More info from the VHHA.](#)

Education, Learning, and Resources:

A look at some of the upcoming meetings and webinars in the week ahead.

- 2021 Virtual Virginia Patient Safety Summit: Thursday, February 25, 2021 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Details to come, but those interested in sharing safety and quality improvement initiatives can [contact the summit organizers 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](#)

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