

# HEALTHCARE COUNCIL REGIONAL COVID-19 UPDATE

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Below you will find The Healthcare Council's COVID-19 Update for October 21, 2020

We work with local organizations to help with supply needs through our ShareSource (formerly NCASS) 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 cases reached significant milestones around the country and world this week. The United States now has more than 8 million confirmed cases and 220,000 deaths. Globally, those numbers surpassed 40 million cases and more than 1 million deaths.
- News from two giants in the health industry: Walmart is entering a new phase in its health care relationship with consumers. Walgreens is investing \$1 billion in its primary health strategy. [The AHA Center for Health Innovation has details.](#)
- CMS has granted healthcare providers a reprieve on accelerated payments for one year, though they were clear that loan forgiveness is not part of the deal. [Full details of new agreement here.](#)
- Does your organization have a long-term plan for telehealth? COVID has accelerated telehealth and it is here to stay. [Full article here.](#)
- This week the CDC released data showing that nearly a quarter of Medicare beneficiaries are forgoing non-coronavirus care due to the pandemic. [Details and impact for health care facilities found here.](#)
- A new NIH trial expects to enroll approximately 2,100 hospitalized adults with moderate to severe COVID-19 at medical facilities in the United States and Latin America. The trial will test immune modulators to combat COVID-19. [Details can be found here.](#)
- The NIH's National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute has released a new video explain how COVID-19 affects the heart, lungs, and blood. [Watch vide here.](#)

## Education, Learning, and Resources

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

**The Healthcare Council invites you to an educational opportunity on Health System Specialty Pharmacy Services, Friday, October 23, 2020 at 2:00pm EST. Panel guest speakers will include:**

Meghan D. Swarthout, PharmD, MBA, BCPS  
Division Director, Ambulatory and Care Transitions  
Department of Pharmacy – The Johns Hopkins Health System

Scott Canfield, PharmD, CSP  
Assistant Director, Clinical Program Development  
Johns Hopkins Home Care Group

Danielle Pennock, PharmD  
PGY2 Community-based Pharmacy  
Administration & Leadership (CPAL) Resident  
Johns Hopkins Home Care Group

**Please register in advance for this meeting:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYlcOGqqzlvE9zQwyhm8FfkJoAAICY0s-JR>

**After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.**

The Healthcare Council Pharmacy Division is chaired by JoAnn Neuffer. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Christopher Howard, Director of Education for The Healthcare Council at [cnhoward@healthcare-council.org](mailto:cnhoward@healthcare-council.org).

- **CDC Weekly Podcast:** The Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) has developed a weekly podcast to update readers on the latest scientific information from CDC's COVID-19 response. In each episode, *MMWR's* Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Charlotte Kent provides an overview of the latest scientific information published in *MMWR*. New episodes are posted every Monday. [Information and download instructions can be found here](#).
- **RAPID COVID-19 TESTS:** The Healthcare Council and ShareSource are teaming with Healgen to provide COVID IgM tests that will provide results in 10 minutes. Each test will cost \$12.00. Below are two forms with more information and details about how to order. Please contact us for more information.

**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](#)

*The Healthcare Council ♦ 4061 Powder Mill Road, Suite 100, Calverton, MD ♦ 20705 ♦ 301-731-4700*  
[www.healthcare-council.org](http://www.healthcare-council.org)