

HEALTHCARE COUNCIL REGIONAL COVID-19 UPDATE

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Below you will find The Healthcare Council's COVID-19 Update for November 18, 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:

- The big news this week was that COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations around the country are on the rise – with the US having more than 160,000 cases yesterday (Tuesday). At the same time, two new promising vaccines are now proving to be effective in trials. One vaccine is by Pfizer and one by Moderna. [Get 'the basics' on both vaccines from the Washington Post.](#)
- The AHA is helping hospitals and health systems prepare for the arrival of potential vaccines while promoting public confidence in Food and Drug Administration-approved SARS-CoV-2 vaccines. [Read the AHA Special Bulletin on the topic.](#)
- Roughly 20 million people could get a coronavirus vaccine in December and 25 to 30 million could be vaccinated each month afterward, Moncef Slaoui, who co-leads Operation Warp Speed, the federal government's COVID-19 vaccine and therapeutics initiative, said during a White House event this week. [More on the vaccine plans.](#)
- Virginia hospitals and health systems issued a joint statement urging all people strictly follow COVID-19 precautions as cases rise in the state. [Read joint statement.](#)
- CMS announced it will not update the overall hospital quality star ratings at Hospital Compare in January to allow time to review public comment and finalize proposed changes to the star ratings methodology.
- The Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association has initiated a new professional relationship with Contact Harald, which provides a leading Bluetooth technology contact tracing solution in the era of COVID-19 that enables employers to quickly identify team members who have come into contact with a person affected by the virus. [Details on the partnership.](#)
- Amazon is expanding its push into the healthcare arena with plans for new online pharmacies. [Full story here.](#)
- Hospice providers are among those who will receive a batch of over 7 million Abbot Lab/BinaxNOW rapid antigen tests that the U.S. government will send out this week. [Full details from Reuters.](#)
- Members of President-elect Joe Biden's Coronavirus Task Force say that a national 'lock down' is not on the agenda. [More on the comments.](#)
- Details on Biden's 13-person Task Force [can be seen here.](#)

Education, Learning, and Resources

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

- **Executive Briefing Series Virtual Conference:** Dixon, Hughes, Goodman LLP (a Healthcare Council partner) has a virtual

series on **December 8 and 10** with the title “Addressing the Issues of Today; Building a Vision for Tomorrow.” Details on how to register [can be found here](#).

- **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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