

HEALTHCARE COUNCIL REGIONAL COVID-19 UPDATE

Volume 2, Issue 5 February 3, 2021

Please have a look at 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:

- Acting HHS Secretary Norris Cochran told governors in a letter 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, won't be ending soon.
- The first case of the South Africa strain of the COVID-19 was detected this week in Baltimore. Questions emerge as to how it will react to the vaccines. [Story and details here.](#)
- The Biden administration is encouraging health care providers to use their available COVID-19 vaccines rather than keeping some shots in reserve, with Andy Slavitt, a senior adviser to the White House's pandemic response team, saying stockpiling "does not need to happen and should not happen" because states will receive a steady supply of vaccines.
- Moderna Inc. and Pfizer Inc.-BioNTech SE will need to significantly increase their weekly deliveries of COVID-19 vaccines in order to meet their commitments of providing 100 million doses each to the U.S. government by March 31. [More information and full story.](#)
- The AHA has issued a set of strategies for health organizations to use to overcome COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy. [Full Member Advisory story here.](#)
- CMS has determined that the COVID-19 emergency presents exceptional circumstances for consumers in accessing health insurance and will provide a Special Enrollment Period (SEP) for individuals and families to apply and enroll in the coverage they need, announced CMS. [More information here.](#)
- The most deadly global health crisis in a century has resulted in a substantial decline in overall heart surgery volume and an unexplained increase in deaths after coronary artery bypass grafting, according to research presented at the 57th Annual Meeting of The Society of Thoracic Surgeons. [A full article on the subject can be found here.](#)
- Can simulation help with the treating of COVID? It can be a viable way to quickly evaluate and refine new medical guidelines and educate hospital staff in new procedures, a recent study from UT Southwestern's Department of Pediatrics shows. [Health Purchasing News has full story.](#)
- More rapid COVID-19 tests coming. The White House said it would buy 8.5 million rapid COVID-19 tests in a \$231.8 million deal with Australian manufacturer Ellume, with the company expecting to ship 100,000 tests per month to the United States from February to July. [Full story here.](#)
- A recently released white paper provides an in-depth look at the features and benefits of RFID-based automated inventory management systems and how they can help you better track and safeguard PPE, test kits and other medical supplies. [Link to the white paper here.](#)

- The most recent issues of the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association's REVIEW Magazine focuses on COVID-19 frontline workers in Virginia hospitals. [Find the latest issues here.](#)

Education, Learning, and Resources:

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

- **Physician Management Divisional Virtual Meeting: Tuesday, February 16, 2021, 3:00pm - 4:00pm.** Please join The Healthcare Council for an open discussion and networking session regarding Physician Management practices today. Register in advance for this meeting, here: [Physician Management Divisional Meeting.](#) After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.
- **Jackson Physician Search Webinar: Tuesday, February 23, 2021, 3:00pm.** With so many competing priorities in healthcare today, it is more important than ever to develop a strategic (short and long term) approach to keep your physician, physician leadership and overall provider recruiting/staffing plans on track. In this session, JPS will discuss how the pandemic has changed (and not changed) the industry, what is motivating candidates at all levels from leadership to direct care, and how to develop a methodology to hire and retain top talent to drive the strongest possible ROI for your organization. Register in advance for this meeting, here: [Jackson Physician Search Webinar.](#)
- **2021 Virtual Virginia Patient Safety Summit: Thursday, February 25, 2021, 9:30am - 2:30pm.** Those interested in sharing safety and quality improvement initiatives can [contact the summit organizers here.](#)
- **Medical Solutions Webinar: Thursday, February 25, 2021, 3:00pm.** In this webinar presentation, Medical Solutions will discuss COVID's Butterfly Effect on Temporary Staffing: Practical Tips for Securing Talent. This webinar will explore the impact of increased nationwide demand for temporary clinical labor on local supply, pay rates, and traditional staffing models. Within this framework, participants will gain several practical takeaways to more effectively compete for talent during one of the sharpest labor market imbalances American healthcare has ever experienced. Register in advance for this webinar meeting: [Medical Solutions Webinar.](#)
- **Ascella Health Webinar: Tuesday, March 2, 2021, 3pm - 4pm.** Drive a Successful Specialty Pharmacy Strategy: Drive New Revenue, Ensure Access to Limited Distribution Drugs (LDD), Expand Infusion Capabilities, Control Costs for At-Risk rare-ultra orphan disease, and Enable Improved Clinical Care Services. With the specialty drug spend reaching above \$250 million annually and growing, is your pharmacy positioned to address the needs of your patients? Without an effective Specialty & Infusion Pharmacy strategy, health systems will be unprepared for its challenges. Register in advance for this meeting: [Ascella Webinar.](#) You will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

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](#)

