

HEALTHCARE COUNCIL REGIONAL COVID-19 UPDATE

Volume 1, Issue 7

April 3, 2020

We continue our effort to put some of the key information and policy updates into one place for our hospitals and healthcare organizations. As always, if you have information you would like us to include in these updates, please contact us with a short message and link. Don't forget to follow us on Twitter for updates throughout each day @HCNCA



New national guidelines and policies updates:

- Microsoft is warning hospitals of potential ransomware attacks related to the COVID-19 crisis. [Details here.](#)
- On Thursday CMS released an informal bulletin with more guidelines for telehealth options, particularly as it relates to rural hospitals. [Read the bulletin.](#)
- If you have interest in any of the conference calls that CMS has been hosting with national stakeholders, there is a page where you can access recordings and transcripts of those calls. [Access site.](#)
- CMS has now approved Section 1135 Waivers for 44 states.
- NIDA Director **missing word** potential risk for people who smoke/use drugs during COVID-19 crisis; shares implications for treatment of patients. [Information at NIH site.](#)
- The Food and Drug Administration has approved the first coronavirus test for antibodies, allowing doctors to confirm whether a patient has been exposed to COVID-19. Cellex's test provides results in roughly 15 minutes, and could help the United States track asymptomatic COVID-19 patients, particularly health care workers.

Regional Information and Information for Hospitals:

Developments from around the MD-DC-VA area.

- DC Mayor Muriel E. Bowser says the District has yet to receive any of the ventilators it requested and other supplies are also below what was requested. [Story in Washington Post.](#)
- MD and VA also say they have only received a fraction of the equipment they requested from FEMA. [WaPo has the story.](#)
- The University of Maryland School of Public Health is providing resources and information for a local and national audience. [Visit the UMD SPH page.](#)
- The DCHA has useful information in their COVID-19 Resource page. [Link to resource page.](#)
- WH says it is missing results of 50% of the tests that have been conducted; again urges ALL testing centers and hospitals to report information to authorities.
- Details about cases, tests, and deaths in the region can be found in the General Information section at the end of this email.

Purchasing through National Capital Area Shared Services:

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

- **Supply Orders:** the Healthcare Council is (still!) placing orders for local hospitals and healthcare organizations for a wide range of products and supplies. If we can help your organization, let us know.
- **The FDA** has new guidelines for manufacturers importing PPE and other equipment. [New guidelines here.](#)
- **Defense Production Act:** President Trump will increase the use of this power to help with supply needs. [Story in The Hill.](#)

Education, Learning, and Resources

We will continue to look for ways we can help with education and learning needs as well as be a resource for the variety of needs you may have during this crisis:

- **Healthcare Workforce Logistics** is offering a rapid response staffing program to help meet urgent staffing needs during this crisis. Healthcare Council HR Leaders received an email about this opportunity last week. More information can be found here <https://blog.hwlmosp.com/hwl-launches-covid-19-rapid-response-staffing-program>.

General Information 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](#)
- State Hospital Association information can be found at these websites:
 - ◆ [Maryland Hospital Association](#)
 - ◆ [Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association](#)
 - ◆ [DC Hospital Association](#)
- [Morning Consult Resource Page](#)

Healthcare Council of the National Capital Area ♦ 4061 Powder Mill Road, Suite 100, Calverton, MD ♦ 20705 ♦ 301-731-4700
www.healthcare-council.org