HEALTHCARE COUNCIL REGIONAL COVID-19 UPDATE

The Healthcare Council is pleased to send another Weekly Update, with a variety of information about the COVID-19 pandemic and how it affects healthcare organizations in our region. During the past couple of weeks, several 'hotspots' have emerged around the country and while it is important to monitor the national effects of COVID-19, our focus is on issues that affect our region and our region's health care facilities.

We continue to work with local organizations to help with supply needs through our National Capital Area Shared Services 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:

- As of today (July 15) HHS has made significant changes to the COVID-19 daily data reporting process. Find all the details here.

- The American Hospital Association is launching a service called AHA Digital Pulse, designed to help health care organizations assess their digital capabilities. If interested in more information, please go to the AHA Digital Pulse website.

- In a letter expected to be sent to governors soon, the Trump administration will recommend that states deploy the National Guard to hospitals to help them improve data collection about COVID-19 patients, supplies and capacity. More details can be found here.

- This week HHS, through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), announced approximately $3 billion in funding to hospitals serving a large percentage of vulnerable populations on thin margins and approximately $1 billion to specialty rural hospitals, urban hospitals with certain rural Medicare designations, and hospitals in small metropolitan areas. Details can be found here.

- HHS is also revising the existing payment formula for a May funding tranche so as to include certain special rural Medicare designation hospitals in urban areas as well as others who provide care in smaller non-rural communities. Click here for a state-by-state breakdown of those payments.

- There is some concern that protective gear for healthcare workers (PPE) is beginning to run low again as some parts of the country see dramatic rises in cases and hospitalizations. Read more from the AP.

- The NIH has launched a clinical trials network to test COVID-19 vaccines and other prevention tools. More information here.

- The WHO issued new guidelines on COVID-19 to state that there are some instances of potential indoor airborne transmission, but the agency didn't go as far as to say that the coronavirus can spread through the air.

- The FDA's list of potentially harmful hand sanitizers has expanded to 59 varieties that could contain methanol, which is toxic when ingested or absorbed through the skin. Story and details here.

Education, Learning, and Resources

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

➢ TOWN HALL TODAY: The American Lung Association will host a virtual Town Hall this afternoon on the topic "Air Quality and COVID-19: Connections, Health Impacts, and Racial Disparities." Register for the Town Hall here.

➢ DCHA President & CEO Jacqueline Bowens presented the hospital sponsored Don't Delay Care campaign at D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser's Press Conference on July 8. Watch the presentation here.

➢ Onclave Networks, Inc. will be hosting an interactive webinar, July 17, 8:00 a.m. highlighting Secure IoT® and the use cases involved in securing medical devices, hospital control systems and the telehealth environment. In January of this year, Onclave was selected by NIST as the IoT Security Platform for Securing Telehealth's Remote Patient Monitoring Ecosystem. Secure IoT supports healthcare security and COVID-19 response activities. Link to join the webinar https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82622803544

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

➢ Morning Consult Resource Page

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