

HEALTHCARE COUNCIL REGIONAL COVID-19 UPDATE

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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 in which we can help you get the supplies you need.



Guidelines, Information, and Policies Updates:

- Broad COVID-19 cases and vaccines update: This week, the US snapped an 11 consecutive week record of more than 1M new infections and the third week of declining cases. With respect to vaccines, more Americans (more than 39 million), have received at least one dose of a vaccine than there are total US cases. The US maintained its position as the leader in the most vaccinations of any country.
- Locally, both Maryland and Virginia are dealing with distribution issues related to the vaccine. [Read full story in the Washington Post.](#)
- But case and hospitalization trends in our region are going in the right direction [Full data from D.C. here.](#)
- The AHA has released an Action Alert urging members to support Hospitals and Health Systems in the COVID-19 relief package that is currently before Congress. [Read full Action Alert here.](#)
- A clinical observational study, involving 5,711 patients with COVID-19 at 55 hospitals across 12 countries, found that very severely frail individuals with COVID-19 are three times more likely to die than those who were not frail, even taking into account their age. [Link to full story.](#)
- An international randomized, controlled Phase 3 clinical trial has begun evaluating the safety and efficacy of an investigational long-acting antibody combination for treating people hospitalized with COVID-19. [More details from NIH here.](#)
- More good news on the vaccine front: Johnson & Johnson submitted its [single-shot COVID-19 vaccine](#) to U.S. regulators recently for emergency use authorization after the vaccine was shown to be effective against illness and preventing severe disease and death.
- Pfizer Inc. said it expects to reduce its production time for a batch of COVID-19 vaccines from 110 days to an average of 60 days as more doses are made and the process becomes more efficient.
- AstraZeneca PLC's COVID-19 vaccine was [82 percent effective](#) when patients got their two shots three months apart, according to a new study from the University of Oxford.
- A coronavirus variant first identified in the United Kingdom is doubling roughly every 10 days in the United States, with an estimated transmission rate 30 percent to 40 percent higher than that of more common variants, according to a new preprint study from a team of researchers.
- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General is alerting the public about fraud schemes related to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). [Department of Health and Human Services Announcement.](#)
- In Maryland, Governor Hogan addressed criticism of the state's vaccine distribution in his State of the State address.

[More from the Washington Business Journal.](#)

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](#)

