

HEALTHCARE COUNCIL REGIONAL COVID-19 UPDATE

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 7 FEBRUARY 17, 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 in which we can help you get the supplies you need.



Guidelines, Information, and Policies Updates

- The American Hospital Association released its 2021 Advocacy Agenda. You can read the entire agenda [here](#).
- The Washington Post Vaccine Tracker is a useful tool to see how many vaccines are being giving in our region. [Access the tracker here](#).
- First-dose vaccine data for our region as of February 16: District of Columbia: 87,3000 doses (12.4% of population); Maryland: 643,000 doses (10.6% of population); Virginia: 1,047,000 doses (11.7% of population); West Virginia: 253,000 doses (14.1% of population).
- In November 2020, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services recognized hospital-at-home care by launching the Acute Hospital Care at Home Program in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is gaining momentum. [Read details from the AHA Center for Health Innovation](#).
- The Howard University Faculty Practice Plan in conjunction with Howard University Hospital (HUH) today announced the opening of a COVID-19 vaccine clinic for District of Columbia residents age 65 and older. [Details from the HUH newsroom](#).
- At least 32 million of the 142 million rapid COVID-19 tests that were sent to states beginning in September hadn't been used as of earlier this month, with the unused tests costing the federal government \$160 million, according to an analysis by the Wall Street Journal. [Full story here](#) (sub required).
- President Joe Biden said his administration finalized deals to obtain another 200 million COVID-19 vaccine doses from Moderna Inc. and Pfizer Inc.-BioNTech SE by the end of July, boosting the country's total supply to 600 million doses, enough to vaccinate every U.S. adult.
- New research from the NIH shows an additional possible benefit of mask wearing: humidity. [Read about the full study here](#).
- Health workers and hospitals are trying to figure out how to respond to an influx of counterfeit N95 masks that are hitting the market. [More on the story here](#).
- More therapeutics to combat COVID-19 are on the horizon according to the CDC. [Details from the CDC can be found here](#).

- People who have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 within the past three months don't need to quarantine if they are exposed to an infected person, according to the CDC. Their updated guidance also acknowledges it's "still uncertain" whether fully vaccinated people could spread the virus to others.
- The Biden administration says it will begin shipping COVID-19 vaccines directly to community health centers and will increase the federal government's weekly vaccine shipments to states to 13.5 million.

Education, Learning, and Resources

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

- **CDC National Forum on COVID-19 Vaccine:** The CDC is inviting health leaders to a national conference on February 22-24. [Click here for many more details.](#)
- **Jackson Physician Search Webinar: Tuesday, February 23, 2021, 3:00 - 4:00 pm.** 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, 9:30 am - 2:30 pm.** Those interested in sharing safety and quality improvement initiatives can contact the summit organizers [here.](#)
- **Medical Solutions Webinar: Thursday, February 25, 2021, 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm.** 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.](#)
- **A Roadmap to Eliminating Surgical Smoke: How Littleton Adventist Hospital Went 100% smoke-free: Thursday, February 25, 2021, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm CT.** The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the importance of workplace safety in healthcare, and the operating room is no exception. Surgical tools that cauterize or vaporize tissue can create smoke that may contain toxic chemicals that masks don't filter out. On average, daily exposure to surgical smoke is equivalent to the team smoking 27-30 unfiltered cigarettes. Melony Prince, MSN, RN, clinical educator for surgical services at Littleton (Colo.) Adventist Hospital has played a key role in assisting hospitals to go smoke-free. [Click here](#) to join this live presentation, as Ms. Prince shares a roadmap to help guide other healthcare organizations through this process. Can't attend live? No worries, register now and we will send the recorded version for you to view at your convenience following the webinar! [Register here at Beckers Hospital Review.](#)
- **Ascella Health Webinar: Tuesday, March 2, 2021, 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm.** 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](#)



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