



# IROQUOIS

Healthcare Association

**To:** IHA Members

**From:** Gary J. Fitzgerald, *President & CEO*

**Date:** April 2, 2020

**RE:** COVID-19 Member Update: New Guidance, Telehealth & Recent Updates

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IHA continues to be in contact with our allied associations, DOH, the Governor's office and state lawmakers to address ongoing hospital concerns related to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. We have created a dedicated email address - [covid@iroquois.org](mailto:covid@iroquois.org) - for you to **share REQUESTS, IDEAS, and CONCERNS that we will communicate directly to state and federal government.**

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## FEDERAL COVID-19 UPDATE:

Below, please find resources related to federal COVID-19 aid.

- [Families First Coronavirus Response Act – Increased FMAP FAQs](#) - 3/27
- [AHA Special Bulletin | CARES Act Financial Resources to Assist Hospitals and Health Systems](#) - 3/30

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## STATE COVID-19 UPDATE:

As of today, New York has a total of 92,381 COVID-19 cases, 51,809 of which are in New York City. New York's COVID-19 death toll has risen to 2,373 statewide. 13,383 people are currently hospitalized in New York, with 3,396 of those patients in the ICU.

The Javits Center field hospital and US Navy hospital ship, Comfort, are ready to accept downstate's overflow of patients. Construction has started on a field hospital at the Brooklyn Cruise Terminal, expected to open next week, adding 750 hospital beds.

A COVID-only temporary hospitals in Staten Island, at the South Beach Psychiatric Center, is expected to open to patients next week.

The state has 85,400 healthcare volunteers ready to assist hospitals across the state. The state has created an online portal to match volunteers with hospitals in need. The portal was opened to several downstate healthcare providers this week.

New York released 400 ventilators to NYC Health and Hospital and 200 to Long Island and Westchester on Wednesday. According to Cuomo, at the current burn rate, New York has enough ventilators in the stockpile for six days. There are approximately 2,200 ventilators in the state stockpile currently.

For additional state information, please visit the [NYS Department of Health](#) or [Governor's Pressroom](#).

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## STATE BUDGET UPDATE:

Legislators are voting remotely on the remaining bills required to enact a final State Budget which we expect soon.

A very brief examination of the budget language indicates cuts to healthcare providers including many of the Medicaid Redesign Team II recommendations to achieve \$2.5 billion in Medicaid savings.

We will be sending an overview and analysis of the health-related items impacting hospitals under separate cover.

## CMS COVID-19 UPDATE:

CMS [issued](#) new blanket waivers related to COVID-19 on March 30. CMS has posted waiver details and provider-specific fact sheets on its [COVID-19 Waivers webpage](#). The waivers are retroactive to March 1, 2020 and include:

- Allowing hospitals to establish additional treatment locations;
- Expanding access to telehealth;
- Allowing for additional workforce capacity; and
- Eliminating certain administrative requirements and conditions of participation.

### [CMS | Accelerated and Advanced Payments Fact Sheet](#) - 3/30

CMS has expanded the Accelerated and Advance Payment Program to a broader group of Medicare Part A providers and Part B suppliers for the duration of the public health emergency. The fact sheet outlines eligibility and the request process and reflects the passage of the CARES Act.

### [CMS | Guidance on Exceptions and Extensions for Quality Reporting Requirements](#) - 3/27

Provides supplemental information and guidance on relief in quality reporting and value-based purchasing programs [announced](#) by CMS on March 22. Also see [Fact Sheet](#).

## FEMA FUNDING ASSISTANCE:

Hospitals may be [eligible](#) for FEMA Public Assistance funding under the COVID-19 major disaster declaration (DR-4480). NYS DHSES has conducted [web briefings](#) describing eligibility and the request process. For additional information, see:

- NYS DHSES Disaster Declarations
- American Hospital Association (AHA)
- FEMA Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide

Hospitals should submit a [request for public assistance](#) (RPA) form through the FEMA grants portal. If the facility does not have a FEMA grants portal account, RPA forms may be submitted to NYS DHSES via email to: [patricia.debboli@dhses.ny.gov](mailto:patricia.debboli@dhses.ny.gov). DHSES will create an account on the applicant's behalf.

Hospitals should track and document expenses related to COVID-19 response including staff time and wages, medical facility services, equipment and supplies, temporary medical facilities and/or enhanced capacity, and emergency medical transport.

The following [Hospital Incident Command System](#) (HICS) forms and Job Action Sheets may be helpful in identifying and recording expenses.

- [Finance/Administration Section Chief](#)
- [Time Unit Leader](#)
- [Procurement Unit Leader](#)
- [Compensation/Claims Unit Leader](#)
- [Cost Unit Leader](#)
- [HICS 214 - Activity Log](#)
- [HICS 252 - Section Personnel Time Sheet](#)
- [HICS 253 - Volunteer Registration](#)
- [HICS 256 - Procurement Summary Report](#)
- [HICS 257 - Resource Accounting Record](#)
- [HICS 258 - Hospital Resource Directory](#)

## TELEHEALTH:

The use of telehealth has increased drastically among upstate New York hospitals and healthcare providers. Earlier this week, IHA was featured in [an article](#) regarding the utilization of telehealth among upstate hospitals in the midst of COVID-19.

Below, please find the most recent resources and guidance related to telehealth.

- [Adirondack Health Institute | Telehealth Resources](#) - Updated 3/30
- [NYSDOH | Medicaid Comprehensive Telehealth Guidance](#) - Updated 3/25
- [NYSDOH | Medicaid Telehealth FAQs](#) - 3/31
- [NYSDOH | Telephonic and Telehealth Guidance for Adult Day Health Care Programs](#) - Revised 3/28
- [OMH | Use of Telephone and Two-way Video Technology](#) - Revised 3/30
- [OMH | Self-Attestation of Compliance to Offer Telemental Health Services](#) - Revised 3/30
- [CMS | Long-Term Care Facility Telehealth and Telemedicine Tool Kit](#) - Issued 3/27
- [CMS | FAQs on Telehealth Services through Private Health Insurance Coverage](#) - 3/26

## STAFFING/WORKFORCE:

IHA is hosting weekly calls with Human Resources professionals from our member hospitals and health care systems in order to prepare for the apex of COVID-19.

The qualitative information shared with IHA has been compiled into [a briefing](#) which will serve as an evolving document as hospital workforce issues develop and unfold week to week.

Below, please find an agenda and details for our next HR call taking place **tomorrow, April 3 at 1:00pm.**

- Recap of March 27 Call
- Updates on current and projected hospital census
- Updates on plans to increase bed capacity by 50%
- CARES Act
- Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)
- Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA)
- New and member-identified issues

Hospitals from the Pandion Optimization Alliance in Rochester have also been invited to participate.

## DIAL-IN INFORMATION:

- Topic: **Weekly COVID-19 Impact on Hospital Staffing & Workforce**
- Date: **Friday, April 3 at 1:00pm**
- Dial-in Number: **(855) 834-4733**
- Conference Code: **8645512**

Please note, you may wish to dial-in at least 10 minutes before the start of the call due to high call-in volume.

If you plan to participate in the call or would like to discuss specific HR concerns or topics, please RSVP to Denise Foeder at [dfoeder@iroquois.org](mailto:dfoeder@iroquois.org) or (315) 410-6468 by 11am on Friday, April 3.

## PPE, SUPPLIES & OTHER EQUIPMENT:

### Process for Requesting State Resources

Hospitals in need of PPE and other supplies/equipment should follow the [process](#) outlined by the Commissioner of Health for requesting resources through the county and NYS Office of Emergency Management. NYSDOH has stressed the importance of making requests no later than 10 days before you expect those supplies to be exhausted. Hospitals are reporting, however, that supplies are taking up to several weeks to be delivered. If you are experiencing these types of delays, please contact us at [covid@iroquois.org](mailto:covid@iroquois.org).

## **AHA launches challenge to aid front line health professionals**

AHA [announced](#) the "100 Million Mask Challenge" to facilitate private sector partnerships to address mask and face shield shortages in the fight against COVID-19.

## **UISS/Premier Members**

[Click here](#) to logon the website to get the latest Supplier updates from Premier's Disaster Preparedness and Response Community.

Premier Letter to Suppliers - On behalf of its members, Premier has asked its contracted suppliers for payment flexibility. Read [Premier's letter to its suppliers here.](#)

## **Premier COVID-19 Weekly Update Call Reminder**

Wednesdays @ 1-2:00 p.m. EDT

Premier hosts a weekly call so members can get the latest information and ask questions relating to COVID-19.

## **UISS/Premier & Non-Premier Members**

Find information on Supplier updates below:

**Henry Schein** - Henry Schein announced on March 26 the availability of an antibody rapid blood test, know as Standard Q COVID-19 IgM/IgG Rapid Test, intended to be administered at the point of care. The test delivers results within 15 minutes from a pinprick with no instrumentation required. For more information [click here](#)

**ICU Medical** - Has a healthy [supply of critical IV solutions products](#) today and is prepared to increase production further should the need arise.

## **Encompass**

- Disposable PPE items: Has stock available for existing customers, and all orders coming in through June have been pre-sold.
- Has a reusable isolation gown; placing orders now in large quantities for a July delivery date; resalable gowns can be pre-ordered in half containers or full containers (50,000 gowns).

**Cardinal** - Released a new [customer letter](#) that highlights a website they established on COVID-19; provided a list of [Cardinal items on allocation](#); provided updates specific to [KangarooTM](#) and [SharpSafety](#) products

**Advanced Sterilization Products (ASP)** - After comprehensive testing between 3M, [the U.S. Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#) and ASP, they are happy to announce that N95 masks can be reprocessed and sterilized in ALL existing STERRAD sterilizers.

- [Fact sheet](#)
- [Instructions for use](#) for reprocessing N95 masks in STERRAD sterilization systems during the COVID-19 public health emergency

**Hill Rom** - [More than doubles production](#) of critical care products, including ventilators, hospital beds and vitals monitoring devices to support COVID-19 response

**BD** - Provided some helpful decision considerations for conserving both [Long Extension Sets](#) and [Alaris Pump Module Administration](#).

**WB Mason** - During this time of critical product shortages, Iroquois Healthcare Association and Pandion Optimization Alliance are working together to help fulfill member needs.

As the recommendation for masks application broadens, WB Mason may be a source for these needs. **The washable and reusable cloth masks** sold by WB Mason can be seen [here](#). The Pandion contract pricing is \$3.50 each (min 100) and includes all freight and direct delivery. Depending on the size of the order, there is about a 7-10 day lead time.

For further information, please contact Don Gearing at [UISSdgearing@iroquois.org](mailto:UISSdgearing@iroquois.org) or Jeanie Smith at Pandion Optimization Alliance [jsmith@pandionalliance.com](mailto:jsmith@pandionalliance.com).

**JN White Manufacturing** – Iroquois Healthcare Association, working with Pandion Optimization Alliance to bring our members opportunities to secure critically needed supplies has reached out to a company that **has begun manufacturing face shields**.

Pandion has entered into a 90 day placeholder agreement with JN White; an industrial manufacturer in Perry, New York, who has pivoted to provide [SplatterGuard™](#)

[Protective Face Shields](#) to our members. They currently have 20,000 face shields in inventory and can make 150,000 per day based on material availability.

Please contact Jeanie Smith [jsmith@pandionalliance.com](mailto:jsmith@pandionalliance.com) to place an order. For any other product questions connect with Ryan Burke, AVP Sourcing at [rburke@pandionalliance.com](mailto:rburke@pandionalliance.com).

Please feel free to reach out to [Don Gearing](#) at UISS with any other questions you may have regarding our mutual initiatives.

## NEW COVID-19 GUIDANCE:

Below, please find the most recent guidance on infection prevention and control, reimbursement, patient evaluation, PPE and supplies, and other issues.

### Medicaid

- [NYSDOH | COVID-19 Guidance for Medicaid Providers](#)
- [NYSDOH | Medicaid Coverage and Reimbursement for COVID-19 Services](#)  
- Updated 3/27
- [NYSDOH | Medicaid Private Duty Nursing Policy](#) - 3/28
- [NYSDOH | Medicaid Durable Medical Equipment and Supplies Policy](#) - 3/28
- [NYSDOH | Medicaid Pharmacy Guidance](#) - Updated 3/25

### Hospital Operations

- [NYSDOH | Protocols for Healthcare Personnel to Return to Work Following COVID-19 Exposure or Infection](#) - Updated 3/31 (Revises 3/28 Protocols)
- [NYSDOH | Visitation Guidance for Obstetrical and Pediatric Settings](#) - Updated 3/27 (Revises 3/21 Guidance)
- [CDC | Decontamination and Reuse of Filtering Facepiece Respirators](#) - 3/31
- [Johns Hopkins | RN Staffing Recommendations to Meet Critical Care Needs](#) - 3/30
- [CDC | Phone Advice Line Guidelines for Children or Adults with Possible COVID-19](#) - New 3/30
- [CDC | Supplemental Guidance for Child Care Programs That Remain Open](#) - 3/30
- [ASHE | Converting Alternate Care Sites to Patient Space Options](#) - Updated 3/30
- [HHS ASPR | COVID-19 Resources](#)

### Clinical

- [NYSDOH | Wadsworth Center Specimen Collection, Handling and Transport Instructions](#) - Updated 4/1 (Revises 3/25 Guidance)
- [NYSDOH Update on Specimen Collection and Handling to Allow Nasal Swab AND Saliva Specimen as Acceptable Alternative Specimen Collection](#) - Updated 4/1 (Revises 3/25 Guidance)
- [CDC MMWR | Prevalence of Underlying Health Conditions Among COVID-19 Patients](#) - 3/31
- [CDC | FAQs for Healthcare Professionals](#) - Updated 3/30
- [CDC | Clinical Guidance for Management of Confirmed COVID-19 Patients](#) - 3/30
- [NYSDOH | Discontinuation of COVID-19 Home Isolation](#) - Updated 3/28
- [NYSDOH | Protocols for Essential Personnel to Return to Work Following COVID-19 Exposure or Infection](#) - Updated 3/31 (Revises 3/28 Protocols)
- [NYSDOH | Weekly Healthcare Provider Updates](#) - Thursdays 1-2pm
- [NYSDOH | Infection Control Presentation for Nursing Homes and Adult Care Facilities](#) - 3/26

### PPE & Supplies

- [FDA | Emergency Use Authorization for Imported, Non-NIOSH-Approved Disposable Filtering Facepiece Respirators](#) - 3/28
- [FDA | Emergency Use Authorization of NIOSH-Approved Air Purifying Respirators for Use in Health Care Settings](#) - 3/28
- [FDA | Emergency Use Authorization for Battelle Decontamination System](#) - 3/29
  - [FDA | Battelle Decontamination System FAQs](#) - 3/29
- [The Joint Commission | Statement on Use of Face Masks Brought From Home](#) - 3/31

## HERDS SURVEYS/CALLS:

COVID-19 Patient and Bed Summary Surveys are currently being conducted once a day. **The survey opens at 12:00 noon and closes at 4:00 pm.**

DOH holds a **mandatory call once a day at 12:00 noon** to brief hospital leadership and data reporters on issues with data and survey completion and communicate any changes or directions for that day's survey. **(Call-in number: 844-467-8050).** Questions may be submitted by email to [hospinfo@health.ny.gov](mailto:hospinfo@health.ny.gov). Surveys and calls will be held until further notice, including weekends.

Additional fields have been added to collect evening contact information for the person who will be available to answer questions about data after 5 pm each day. That person should also have electronic or print access to the survey data.

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**Let us know** what best practices and processes your hospital has implemented to combat coronavirus.

[VISIT US ONLINE](#)

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Iroquois Healthcare Association | (518) 383-5060 | [www.iroquois.org](http://www.iroquois.org)

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