



CARES ACT - Health Care Response and Resources

Addressing Medical Supply Shortages

- \$16 billion for the Strategic National Stockpile to procure personal protective equipment (PPE), ventilators, and other medical supplies for federal and state response efforts.
- \$11 billion for the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund for the manufacturing, production, and purchase of vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics, and other medical or preparedness needs.

Patient Access to Services and Treatments for COVID-19

- Ensures patient access to coverage of COVID-19 diagnostic test and vaccines (when made available) at no out of pocket costs.
- Expands and strengthens telehealth.
 - Expands temporary telehealth services during the public health emergency by striking the need for a pre-existing provider relationship.
 - Establishes Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) as sites of care for telehealth.
 - Reauthorizes Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant programs that promote the use of telehealth technologies for health care delivery, education, and health information services.
 - Provides a temporary waiver of ESRD face to face requirements and allows certification via telehealth.
 - Provides temporary telehealth coverage of the recertification of hospice under Medicare and encourages the Secretary of HHS to consider telehealth to promote home health.

Relief for our Health Care Workers

- \$100 billion for hospitals and providers on the front lines fighting the COVID-19 virus
- Provides \$1.32 billion in supplemental funding to community health centers on the front lines of testing and treating patients for COVID-19
- Reauthorizes Community Health Centers through November 30, 2020
- Delays pending cuts to Disproportionate Share Hospitals (DSH)
- Suspends the Medicare sequester to December 31, 2020, boosting payments for hospital, physician, nursing home, home health, and other care providers
- Increases inpatient Medicare payments to a hospital for treating a patient admitted with COVID-19 by 20 percent. This add-on payment is available through the duration of the COVID-19 emergency period
- Ensures doctors who provide volunteer medical services during the COVID-19 public health emergency have liability protections for the period of the public health crisis

- Waives the 3-hour rule for inpatient rehabilitation facilities

COVID-19 Response and Innovation

- \$4.3 billion for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- \$80 million for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
- \$706 million for the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)
- \$425 million to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
- Facilitates partnerships with the private sector on research and development for public health emergencies

Resource Tool Kit for Health Workers

Below is a list of manufacturers you can purchase swabs from directly:

Copan Diagnostics

26055 Jefferson Avenue Murrieta, CA 92562
800-216-4016

Becton, Dickinson and Company

1 Becton Drive
Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417-1880
Phone: 201.847.6800

Thermo Fisher Scientific

168 Third Avenue | Waltham, MA 02451
781-622-1000
800-678-5599

Princeton BioMeditech Corporation

P.O. Box 7139, Princeton, New Jersey 08543-7139 U.S.A. Tel: (732) 274-1000
4242 U.S. Route 1, Monmouth Junction, New Jersey 08852-1905 U.S.A. Fax: (732) 274-1010
Internet E-mail: info@pbmc.com
World Wide Web: <http://www.pbmc.com/>

Additionally, here is the latest U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) guidance and releases in response to COVID-19:

- **Recommendations to Cancel Adult Elective and Non-Essential Medical, Surgical and Dental Procedures:** CMS released recommendations to delay non-essential procedures in an effort to preserve personal protective equipment (PPE), beds, and ventilators for facilities as well as to free up health care workers to treat patients with COVID-19. The recommendations provide a framework for hospitals and clinicians to implement immediately to determine and identify non-essential and elective procedures. The recommendations and guidelines can be found [here](#).
- **Strategies for Optimizing PPE:** CDC released PPE guidance that will provide guidance in PPE shortages, particularly for long-term care facilities, dialysis, and home health providers. The strategies include information specific to eye protection, isolation gowns, facemasks, and N95 respirators. The information can be found [here](#).
- **Guidance for Clinicians Caring for COVID-19 Patients:** CDC's *Prepare to Care for COVID-19* is a resource with practical tools clinicians can use to care for patients with COVID-19 and will be regularly updated to help clinicians adapt as the outbreak unfolds. More information can be found [here](#).

- **FAQs on Hand Hygiene for Healthcare Personnel:** CDC released FAQs on hand hygiene and options for responding to shortages of alcohol-based hand rubs. The information can be found [here](#).
- **FDA Continues to Facilitate Development of Treatments:** The FDA has been working closely with other government agencies and academic centers that are investigating the use of the drug chloroquine, which is already approved for treating malaria, lupus and rheumatoid arthritis, to determine whether it can be used to treat patients with mild-to-moderate COVID-19 to potentially reduce the duration of symptoms, as well as viral shedding, which can help prevent the spread of disease. Studies are underway at the FDA to determine the efficacy in using chloroquine to treat COVID-19. More information can be found [here](#).
- **FAQs for Catastrophic Health Coverage:** CMS released an FAQ document that clarifies coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19 by catastrophic health plans. The FAQs issued today align with guidance the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) released last week, which provides flexibility to high deductible health plans to provide health benefits for diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19 without application of a deductible or cost-sharing. The FAQs can be found [here](#).
- **Guidance on How to Care for Someone at Home:** This guidance has information on how to best assist if you are caring for someone at home, how to monitor for emergency signs, prevent the spread of germs, treat symptoms, and carefully consider when to end home isolation. The information can be found [here](#).
- **Guidance on Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce:** The Department of Homeland Security identified essential critical infrastructure workers that are needed to maintain the services and functions that Americans depend on daily. Examples of the workforce include: communications, chemical, nuclear, energy, government facilities, healthcare and public health, defense industrial base, water, and many others. The memo can be found [here](#).

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