



# CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

CDC

## COVID-19 Update, 3\27

March 27, 2020 | [ARKMED.org/covid19](https://arkmed.org/covid19)

### Status Update as of 3\27, from ADH Website:

[View the ADH COVID-19 Dashboard here.](#)

It will be updated four times a day.

- Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 in Arkansas - 381
- Deaths from COVID-19 - 3, all from Central Arkansas
- Recovered COVID-19 Patients - 19
- COVID-19 Patients in the Hospital - 48
- COVID-19 Patients on Ventilators - 17
- COVID-19 in nursing homes - 42

### Gov. Hutchinson Announces Federal Medicaid Waiver Request

The waiver request would leverage \$100 million in federal funds to enable the state to make major investments to support the health care sector and patients. One proposal would provide enhanced payments to help cover the cost of technology upgrades, primarily telemedicine, and training for physician and other health care providers with an emphasis on small providers.

For a full summary, see the [Continuity of Care Fact Sheet](#).

### AMS Makes Formal Request for PPE

Over the past two weeks, the state has received at least two shipments from the national stockpile. Unfortunately, nearly all of that has been designated for hospitals, nursing homes, and first responders. With the announcement yesterday that \$30 million in PPE supplies should be arriving shortly, AMS has formally requested that a portion of that be set aside for clinics for purchase. Stay tuned for an update.

### Telemedicine Update from Cigna and Humana

Below is an update from Cigna regarding their provisions for telephone-only coverage:

- E/M Visits covered using telemedicine including telephone only
- Use the appropriate CPT code with a GQ modifier and POS 11.
- Quick consults – 5-10 minutes to talk to patients about screening or other issues; use code G2012.

Humana has updated their existing telehealth policy. [Read their entire statement here.](#)

To view our complete list of coverage from carriers, visit [www.arkmed.org/telemedicine](https://www.arkmed.org/telemedicine).

### Home Quarantine Information from ADH

The Arkansas Department of Health said on Thursday (3\26) that they are no longer actively monitoring most people who were placed under voluntary quarantine.

However, ADH does want exposed people identified by local physicians to be given instructions about how to do self-quarantine and what to do if they develop symptoms. The department has a form that can be used to convey this information to patients.

[You can download an AMS version of the ADH information guide here.](#)

We suggest you have the patient sign the form and retain a copy in the medical chart.

#### **FORCED QUARANTINE**

Occasionally, it has been necessary for ADH to place someone under enforced quarantine by issuing an order of quarantine, which is a legal order signed by the Secretary of Health, Dr. Nate Smith. This is only done in cases where people clearly put the public health at risk by not complying with voluntary quarantine and is not something that a community physician can do. If an order of quarantine becomes necessary due to non-compliance, a local physician should contact ADH at the Physicians Hotline (1-844-930-3023) and ask to speak to the Medical Director for Immunization and Outbreak Response or the ADH physician on call to discuss.

[You can read the entire ADH statement here.](#)

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## **COVID-19 Stimulus and Relief Package Approved**

*The following information is from the American Medical Association.*

Late Wednesday night the U.S. Senate approved a massive \$2 trillion stimulus and COVID-19 relief package. Provisions of particular interest to physicians and their practices include the following:

- Creates a new loan product within the Small Business Administration for loans of up to \$10 million to help cover payroll and overhead costs, with expanded loan forgiveness criteria. Physician practices with not more than 500 employees may qualify.
- \$100 billion in direct financial support to hospitals, physician practices, and other health care providers under the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund. This support is for costs of treating COVID-19 patients as well as to ease the financial impact on those who lose revenue due to reductions in other services as a result of the pandemic. Exact eligibility criteria and application process is not yet defined pending implementation.
- Suspension of the 2% Medicare sequester in May through December 2020.
- Limitations on liability for volunteer health care professionals during COVID-19 emergency response.
- A temporary waiver of the face-to-face visit requirement with home dialysis patients.
- Authority for the Secretary of HHS to waive telehealth coverage requirements for new patients during a national emergency. Previous legislation provided flexibility only for established patients seen within the past three years.
- Secretary will also allow for enhanced use of telehealth under Medicare for federally qualified health centers.

Also of interest, the "health extenders" package that was set to expire on May 22 has now been extended to November 30. House passage is expected on Friday and the President is expected to sign the bill into law. We will have more as it becomes available.

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[Join our COVID-19 Mailing List](#)

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### **Got Questions? Let Us Help.**

The Arkansas Medical Society is here to serve our physician members and their medical teams. On our website, we have a place that you can send us questions or share what you're experiencing. Visit [ARKMED.org/covid19](https://www.arkmed.org/covid19) and click on the Got Questions box. We will respond to your question as soon as possible. Thank you for your hard work and together we will make it through this crisis.

For more AMS COVID-19 Resources, visit [ARKMED.org/covid19](https://www.arkmed.org/covid19).

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