



CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

CDC

Special Weekend COVID-19 Update, 4\4

April 4, 2020 | [ARKMED.org/covid19](https://arkmed.org/covid19)

Status Update as of 4\4, from ADH Website:

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

It will be updated four times a day.

- Confirmed cases in Arkansas - 743 (4\4)
- Deaths - 12 (4\4)
- Recovered patients - 79 (4\4)
- Patients in the hospital - 71 (4\3)
- Patients on ventilators - 26 (4\3)
- Patients in nursing homes - 53 (4\3)
- Healthcare workers - 96 (10 are physicians) (4\3)

The following information was sent from the AMA Advocacy team on April 3, 2020, and covers Small Business Administration loan information, as well as practice and advocacy resources.

AMA | Advocacy Update



Special Edition: COVID-19

Small Business Administration Loans

As you may recall, the recently enacted "Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act" includes a new Small Business Administration (SBA) loan program that should benefit physicians and their practices. Small businesses, including physician practices, with no more than 500 employees are eligible to apply for the SBA's new Payroll Protection Program (PPP). The PPP allows a small business to apply to an SBA-approved lender for a loan of up to 250 percent of the business' average monthly payroll costs to cover eight weeks of payroll as well as help with other expenses like rent, mortgage payments, and utilities. The maximum loan amount is \$10 million. Sole-proprietors, independent contractors, and other self-employed individuals are eligible. A loan can be forgiven based on maintaining employee and salary levels. **Eligible small businesses and sole proprietors can apply for PPP loans from SBA lenders beginning April 3, 2020: the application form can be**

found [here](#). An updated AMA fact sheet can be found [here](#).

MIPS Reporting Relief

In addition, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is providing additional relief options for 2019 MIPS reporting due to COVID-19. Practices can submit an Extreme and Uncontrollable Circumstances application until April 30, 2020. An application submitted between April 3 and April 30, 2020, citing COVID-19, will override any previous data submission. **Please note, CMS has updated the [QPP Participation Status Tool](#) so eligible clinicians can see if the policy has been automatically applied.**

Letter to National Governors Association

And today, the AMA sent a letter [urging the National Governors Association](#) and its member governors to support statewide, emergency orders to close non-essential businesses, limit non-essential activities and prohibit gatherings during the critical stages of the response to the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

COVID-19 Practice and Advocacy Resources

Coronavirus Stimulus Package Resources

- Read [a full summary](#) on what the CARES Act means to physicians and medical students.
- This [fact sheet](#) provides resources about programs that will soon be available through the Small Business Administration (SBA), as well as information about tax provisions intended to assist physicians immediately. Refer to the [SBA website](#) for further details.
- This AMA [payment resource](#) provides detailed information on how to request accelerated or advance Medicare payment during the COVID-19 crisis. A CMS [Advance Payment Program FAQ](#) provides additional guidance.

Operational and Strategic Resources

- This [resource](#) details CMS payment policies & regulatory flexibilities during COVID-19 emergency.
- The AMA's [new financial checklist](#) provides physicians and administrators with high-level guidance and 14 practical tips for keeping a medical practice in business during this public health crisis.
- A new AMA [resource](#) gives guidance to physicians and practices that are developing policies and procedures for triaging non-urgent patient requests, targeted to private practice physicians who are facing new and unfamiliar challenges in safely delivering care to non-urgent patients.
- The AMA's [Quick Guide to Telemedicine in Practice](#), designed to help physicians and practices deliver remote care, provides implementation tips, as well as a reference to Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) codes for reporting telemedicine and remote care services. Also available is a [fact sheet](#) for Medicare coverage of telehealth services.
- Recent measures that have altered the provision of health care services across the country have raised concern about the potential liability of physicians and other health care professionals who are responding to the pandemic. Access a [list](#) of liability protections for health care professionals that are currently in effect.

CPT Coding Guidance Resources

- The AMA developed new coding guidance to assist physicians and medical practices in using [Current Procedural Terminology](#) (CPT®) to properly report medical services provided to COVID-19 patients. These CPT resources provide specific coding advice and describe 11 [scenarios](#) to help health care professionals apply best coding practices for office, telehealth, or online services provided to patients during the pandemic.
- It also includes a quick-reference flowchart that outlines [CPT reporting for COVID-19 testing](#) (PDF) and a new AMA web page devoted to information on [CMS payment policies and regulatory flexibilities](#) related to COVID-19.

Contact Us

For additional resources please view the AMA's [COVID-19 Physician Resource Center](#). Share your ideas and experiences about the financial and business challenges during COVID-19 with the AMA by [emailing us](#). The AMA is committed to rapid dissemination of strategies and tactics to support physicians and care teams. Your experiences will help AMA better support physicians and practices during this challenging time.

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Financial Assistance

We've compiled all of the financial resources that you may need for your clinic or practice during the COVID-19 crisis at <https://www.arkmed.org/financial-assistance-during-covid-19/>.

Telemedicine

View the latest information from insurance carriers, HIPAA, and other sources on telemedicine during the COVID-19 crisis at [ARKMED.org/telemedicine](https://www.arkmed.org/telemedicine).

Join our COVID-19 Mailing List

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).

Arkansas Medical Society
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