

Keeping Physicians in Mind and Informed.



CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

CDC

COVID-19 Update, 4\14

April 13, 2020 | [ARKMED.org/covid19](https://www.arkmed.org/covid19)

Status Update as of 4\14, from ADH Website:

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

It will be updated four times a day.

- Confirmed cumulative cases in Arkansas - 1498
- Active cases - 1024
- Recovered patients - 474
- Deaths - 32
- Patients in the hospital - 81
- Patients on ventilators - 29
- Healthcare workers - 206 (65 recovered)

Governor Issues Three New Executive Orders

Governor Asa Hutchinson issued three new Executive Orders yesterday (4\13) in response to COVID-19. Two of these orders (see #2 and #3 below) have significant implications for AMS members.

1. Creates the Governor's Medical Advisory Committee for Post-Peak

COVID-19 Response. The Committee consists of eight physicians (all AMS members) charged with advising the Governor on public health strategy and post-peak efforts to avoid a resurgence of COVID-19. EO 20-17:

https://governor.arkansas.gov/images/uploads/executiveOrders/EO_20-17..pdf

2. Provides limited immunity to physicians, physician assistants, and other specified licensed healthcare workers for injuries and/or death alleged to have occurred due to an act or omission of the healthcare worker in the course of providing medical care in support of the State's response to COVID-19. AMS is extremely appreciative of the Governor's response to requests by AMS and others to include this among his orders. EO 20 18: https://governor.arkansas.gov/images/uploads/executiveOrders/EO_20-18..pdf

3. Suspends provisions of Arkansas' workers compensation statutes thereby allowing first responders and other front-line healthcare workers (including physicians) who contract COVID-19 as a result of their employment or occupation, to be eligible for workers compensation. EO 20-19: https://governor.arkansas.gov/images/uploads/executiveOrders/EO_20-19..pdf

New Clarifications on Emergency Funds

From the American Medical Association:

Concerns were raised Friday (4/10) when the initial HHS Emergency Fund grants were released that, in agreeing to the terms and conditions of the grants, physicians were being required to attest that they diagnose, treat, or test patients for COVID-19. The AMA brought these concerns to the Secretary's office and HHS committed to posting some clarifying language. HHS has now modified some of the language to make its meaning more clear, as follows, stating that every patient is a possible case of COVID-19.

The website at <https://www.hhs.gov/provider-relief/index.html> now includes the following statement:

- If you ceased operation as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, you are still eligible to receive funds so long as you provided diagnoses, testing, or care for individuals with possible or actual cases of COVID-19. Care does not have to be specific to treating COVID-19. HHS broadly views every patient as a possible case of COVID-19.

Also, the second provision of the Terms and Conditions has been changed to no longer say providers attest to "currently" taking care of patients, just that they did so after 1/31/2020:

The Recipient certifies that it billed Medicare in 2019; provides or provided after January 31, 2020 diagnoses, testing, or care for individuals with possible

or actual cases of COVID-19; is not currently terminated from participation in Medicare; is not currently excluded from participation in Medicare, Medicaid, and other Federal health care programs; and does not currently have Medicare billing privileges revoked.

PPE Requests

If your clinic does not have PPE and is unable to obtain what you need from your normal supplier, [complete the online form](#).

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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