

Keeping Physicians in Mind and Informed.



CORONAVIRUS

UPDATE

CDC

COVID-19 Update, 4\23

April 23, 2020 | [ARKMED.org/covid19](https://www.arkmed.org/covid19)

Status Update as of 4\23, from ADH Website:

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

It will be updated four times a day.

- Confirmed cumulative cases in Arkansas - 2465
- Active cases - 1518
- Recovered patients - 902
- Deaths - 45
- Patients in the hospital - 101
- Patients on ventilators - 24
- Healthcare workers - No information was given today on this number.

AFMC Webinar

Implementing Telehealth: Providing Patient Care During COVID-19

What: Panel Discussion

When: Friday, April 24

Noon - 1 p.m. CDT

Telemedicine and virtual care have rapidly become a critical factor in providing care for your patients. Join us for AFMC's Friday panel discussion with industry peers to hear how they are providing care for patients during the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Register today!](#)

PPE Update

AMS made deliveries to six different towns around the state this week to deliver PPE to medical clinics, and we're continuing to work to find much-needed supplies. We were only able to procure gowns and gloves for this week's distribution, and we know after talking with many of you yesterday that masks are still a great need.

If you are in need of masks, CartQue may be able to assist. CartQue is a Dallas, Texas company that uses a buying platform to help you get the supplies you need at a volume discount. Right now, they have KN95 masks (Chinese equivalent that you can [read more about KN95 here](#)), and will be expecting more masks next week. They also have gloves in stock as well.

We recommend visiting [CartQue.com](https://www.cartque.com) to place orders for your clinics. The company should be able to fulfill and ship orders in approximately a week.

[Follow us on social media to see our recap of our deliveries this week.](#)

U.S. Marshals Warns of Impersonation Calls Targeting Physicians

The following is a warning from the United States Marshals Service concerning fraudulent phone calls that seems to be targeting Arkansas physicians.

The callers identify themselves as a Deputy United States Marshal, and advise the physicians that they have an outstanding warrant(s) for Failure To Appear on a jury subpoena. The victims in these calls are then told that they need to appear at their closest Federal courthouse in order to appear before a magistrate judge and show cause as to why they failed to appear. The caller(s) usually will have some form of personal identification that they use to validate their claim such as the victim's home address and/or the victim's date of birth (which can be obtained through public records) and will then ask for the victim's cell phone number and/or email address.

The United States Marshals Service along with the United States Secret Service are investigating these fraudulent calls. They are in no way legitimate and the persons called should not verify or provide ANY further information to the caller(s).

If any physicians should receive such a call, they should:

1. Get the caller's information.
2. Tell them they will have their attorney call them back.
3. Direct them to call the United States Marshals Service in Little Rock, AR at (501) 324-6256 and speak with Deputy U.S. Marshal Jeremy Hammons at extension #271.

At this time we do not believe there to be a physical threat to anyone, but intended victims should remain vigilant and report any suspicious persons or activity to their local law enforcement officials.

AMA Update on CARES Act Provider Relief Fund

From the American Medical Association: On April 22, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) provided additional information about allocation of the \$100 billion CARES Act Provider Relief Fund. This updated information is available at <https://www.hhs.gov/provider-relief/index.html> .

As you know, on April 10 an initial \$30 billion was allocated to clinicians and facilities based on their proportion of Medicare Part A and B fee-for-service spending in 2019. HHS is now adding an additional \$20 billion to this amount for what it describes as a \$50 billion "general allocation." The remaining fund distribution will be based on 2018 net patient revenue, not just Medicare fee-for-service.

Some portion of this distribution is based on cost reports, which are filed with HHS by hospitals and some other facilities. For those without adequate cost reports on file, HHS will open a portal this week for providers to attest to their net 2018 revenue for purposes of determining allocation. We are seeking more information about how the additional funds will be allocated to physicians, including whether or not physicians will need to use this portal process to receive additional funds.

Of the remaining \$50 billion, \$10 billion will be allocated for a targeted distribution to hospitals in areas that have been particularly impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak based on information they provide on the number of ICU beds and admissions for patients with a COVID-19 diagnosis. An additional \$10 billion is being allocated to rural hospitals and rural health clinics based on their operating expenses, and \$400 million is being directed to Indian Health Service facilities.

Some portion of the remaining funds is being used to cover the costs of caring for uninsured patients with COVID-19. These funds may be claimed beginning April 27th at <https://www.hrsa.gov/coviduninsuredclaim> and the reimbursement for the uninsured will be based on Medicare payment rates. Physician services provided to uninsured patients, such as office and emergency visits, including those provided via telehealth, may be reimbursed in this manner.

An unspecified portion of the remaining funding will be used for clinicians, such as obstetrician-gynecologists, and facilities that rely more on Medicaid than Medicare revenues.

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](#).

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).

Financial Help



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/>.

[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).