

Keeping Physicians in Mind and Informed.



CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

CDC

COVID-19 Update, 4\24

April 24, 2020 | [ARKMED.org/covid19](https://www.arkmed.org/covid19)

Status Update as of 4\24, from ADH Website:

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

It will be updated four times a day.

- Confirmed cumulative cases in Arkansas - 2741
- Active cases - 1763
- Recovered patients - 932
- Deaths - 46
- Patients in the hospital - 104
- Patients on ventilators - 25
- Healthcare workers - 285

ADH Directive on Resuming Elective Procedures, Effective April 27

AMS suggests that you document the difficulties you experience trying to comply with these guidelines. We are working on setting up a statewide conference call with the Health Department medical staff to give physicians an opportunity to learn more about this new guideline and ask

questions. We will provide notification as soon as the date and time is confirmed.

The Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) has developed requirements for the resumption of elective procedures, so that surgical facilities could perform elective procedures based on a decrease in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations.

This directive, developed with input from the Arkansas Chapter of the American College of Surgeons, emphasizes the need for facilities to understand their capabilities (e.g., beds, testing, ORs) as well as potential constraints (e.g. workforce, supply chain), while watching for possible subsequent waves of the virus, which may require a return to prior restrictions.

Elective procedures shall be limited as follows:

1. Only outpatients with no plans for overnight stay.
2. An American Society of Anesthesiologists rating of I or II. If they are a II-rating, their disease process should be well controlled.
3. No contact with known COVID-19 patients during the past 14 days.
4. Patients must be asymptomatic for COVID-19 per ADH guidelines.
5. Start with a small initial volume of cases and increase incrementally as PPE availability and number of statewide occurrences dictate.
6. Each institution must have an ample supply of PPE for resuming elective procedures while maintaining a reserve should there be a resurgence of the virus. The acquisition of PPE is a matter for each institution to address and is not the responsibility of ADH.
7. For an asymptomatic patient to be a candidate for a procedure, he/she must have at least one negative COVID-19 NAAT test within 48 hours prior to the beginning of the procedure.

These requirements pertain to all elective procedures, including dental, eye, nasopharyngeal, chest surgery, and colonoscopy. Small rural hospitals under 60 beds and critical access hospitals, though strongly advised to follow this directive to maximize resources and minimize risk, are excluded from this directive. The April 3, 2020 directive's exemptions for medically necessary procedures to preserve a patient's life or health also remain in effect.

[Read the ADH directive on resuming elective procedures here](#)

ADH Updated Guidance on Testing

Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) now recommends that clinicians test patients for COVID-19 based solely on their symptoms. This means patients can be tested even if they do not have known risk factors of contact with a person confirmed to have COVID-19 or travel to an area with widespread community transmission of COVID-19. In addition, we also now recommend testing all those with history of potential exposure to COVID-19, even if asymptomatic.

Update from the Arkansas State Medical Board

PAIN MEDICINE - At the April 2020 meeting the Arkansas State Medical Board voted, during the current COVID-19 health crisis, to allow a one-time waiver of the Regulation 2.4 requirement for a three month in-person visit in order to refill a patient's pain medication so long as the prescription is a refill only and not a change of any kind to the current medication the patient receives.

TELEMEDICINE – CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

At the April meeting of the Arkansas State Medical Board, the Board voted to allow prescribers to see patients and prescribe controlled substance medications via telemedicine for a six-month period during the current COVID-19 health crisis, so long as the prescription is a refill only and not a change of any kind to the current medication the patient receives.

PPE Vendor Recommendations

Another Arkansas manufacturer, WiseWhisker.com, has converted their manufacturing operations to include making face shields during the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information, call 479-225-8544

For other vendors, check out kcfaceshields.com and CartQue.com.

AMS PPE Road Show: A Recap

Day 1: Warren and Arkadelphia



Day 2: Alma, Springdale, Jonesboro, Mountain Home, and Little Rock

The AMS PPE Road Show began Tuesday, April 21 with AMS staff making stops in Warren and Arkadelphia. The next day, trucks spread out across the state and made stops in Alma, Springdale, Mountain Home, Jonesboro, and Little Rock.

It was so good to see many of you this week as we helped distribute critical PPE to medical clinics around the state. Our mission is to help physicians and their medical teams in this time of crisis, and we will continue to fight for you and your patients.

Follow future PPE Road Show



stops with the hashtag #PPEroadshow.

We would also like to thank Gov. Asa Hutchinson, the Department of Emergency Management, AMS Board of Trustees, AMS member physicians, and especially the AMS staff for making this project possible.

Check Out News Coverage from the PPE Road Show

[5 News Online in Alma](#)

[Jonesboro Sun](#)



PPE Requests



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

Telemedicine



View the latest information from insurance carriers, HIPAA, and other sources on 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

[online form.](#)

during the COVID-19
crisis at

[https://www.arkmed.org/financial-assistance-during-covid-19/.](https://www.arkmed.org/financial-assistance-during-covid-19/)

Vendors for PPE

[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
ARKMED.org

