



COVID-19 Update, 419

April 9, 2020 | [ARKMED.org/covid19](https://arkmed.org/covid19)

Status Update as of 4/9, from ADH Website:

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

It will be updated four times a day.

- Confirmed cases in Arkansas - 1119
- Deaths - 21
- Recovered patients - 288
- Patients in the hospital - 73
- Patients on ventilators - 31
- Patients in nursing homes - 68 (48)
- Healthcare workers - 158 (16 are physicians)

Better News on PPE

Clinics across the state are still in dire need of PPE. Here is what AMS is doing to help:

In cooperation with the Governor's office, Arkansas Department of Health and Arkansas Department of Emergency Management and with assistance from UAMS and Arkansas Heart Hospital, approximately 10% of the state's purchases of PPE are being set aside for medical clinics. AMS will be providing ADEM the list of clinics in need and ADEM, with the support of the Arkansas National Guard, will be mailing supplies to the clinics. The first shipment (a small one) has arrived and consists of 500 boxes of gloves, 138 boxes of ear-loop masks and 340 gowns.

This week, your AMS staff has been distributing a small supply of PPE donated by the ADH. This included about 500 N95 masks, 2900 pairs of gloves, 192 face shields and 144 goggles. In addition, the City of Little Rock has been requesting donations and is now disseminating a supply of N 95 masks to those clinics in Pulaski County that completed the AMS form.

There is obviously much more that needs to be done. PPE will continue to be in short supply for the near future. We suggest you continue trying to order through your normal suppliers. At some point, production should begin to catch up with the current demand.

Thank you all for your patience. Thank you all for your service to your patients during this extremely difficult time.

Arkansas Insurance Commissioner Issues Orders to Help Physicians and Hospitals Focus on COVID -19

PAYMENT AUDITS OF HOSPITALS & PROVIDERS SUSPENDED

Recognizing that hospitals and other healthcare providers are an important part of the allied health response to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and assist with the treatment and therapy of those testing positive for the virus, the Commissioner believes audits of payments by health insurers is an impediment to the rendering of assistance to our citizens affected by the virus.

Therefore, the Commissioner directs all health insurance carriers offering health insurance plans, including short term limited-duration insurance plans, regulated by the Department, to suspend payment audits of hospitals and healthcare providers during the 60-day period beginning with the date Executive Order 20-03 was issued. This directive does not prevent health insurers from retroactively auditing payments once the emergency declaration expires.

OVERPAYMENT RECOVERY TIME LIMIT TOLLED

The Insurance Commissioner also believes the time limit on overpayment recovery between a hospital or healthcare provider with a health insurer is an impediment to the rendering of assistance to our citizens affected by the virus.

Therefore, the Commissioner directs all health insurance carriers offering health insurance plans, including short term limited-duration insurance plans, regulated by the Department, to toll the time limit on overpayment recovery or any other agreed upon time limit between health insurers, and hospitals and healthcare providers during the 60-day period beginning with the date Executive Order 20-03 was issued.

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is also issuing an order suspending all prior authorization requirements for cases involving COVID-19 patients. NOTE: Most carriers were voluntarily waiving PR requirements for COVID-19 patients prior to the issuance of the order.

Managing Mental Health During COVID-19

From the American Medical Association:

During a crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic, it is common for everyone to experience increased levels of distress and anxiety, particularly as a result of social isolation.

Physicians and other frontline health care professionals are particularly vulnerable to negative mental health effects as they strive to balance the duty of caring for patients with concerns about their own well-being and that of their family and friends. [Click here to read the strategies and resources to help manage your own mental well-being.](#)

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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