



CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

CDC

COVID-19 Update, 5\14

May 14, 2020 | [ARKMED.org/covid19](https://arkmed.org/covid19)

Status Update as of 5\14, from ADH Website:

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

It will be updated four times a day.

- Confirmed cumulative cases in Arkansas - 4366
- Active cases - 928
- Recovered patients - 3340
- Deaths - 98
- Patients in the hospital - 69
- Patients on ventilators - 10
- Healthcare workers - This information was not released today.

Guidance on HIPAA During the Coronavirus Pandemic

The Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights (OCR) has issued guidance to health care providers to help with COVID-19 and the nationwide public health emergency. Below are recent highlights and links to more information.

OCR Issues Guidance to Help Ensure First Responders and Others Receive Protected Health Information (PHI) about Individuals Exposed to COVID-19 3/24/2020

Summary – This guidance reiterates when providers may disclose PHI about an individual who has been infected or exposed to COVID-19 including law enforcement, paramedics, fire fighters and public health authorities.

Recommendations – Provide specific refresher training to staff responsible for reporting communicable disease and staff working with first responders. Continue to use discretion when notifying those exposed to a positive patient, continue to use the minimum of PHI necessary and never share PHI publicly. [View the disclosure notice](#)

Notification of Enforcement Discretion for Telehealth Remote Communications during the COVID-19 Nationwide Public Health Emergency 3/17/2020

Summary – This guidance addresses caring for patients via telehealth services that don't meet the requirements of the HIPAA Rules. This guidance

gives details of software applications (apps) that allow video chats that can now be used for telehealth visits and lists public facing apps that should not be used. This applies to all telehealth provided for any reason, not just COVID-19.

Recommendations – Make good faith efforts to continue following HIPAA security measures. Try to use apps that are HIPAA-compliant and do provide a business associate agreement (BAA). Other methods can be used if they are timelier and accessible for the patient to be treated. When using apps that do not offer secure connections, providers are encouraged to notify patients that these third-party apps potentially introduce privacy risks and document that education to the patient. Document your process to choose the apps used, efforts to get the BAA, education to patient on non-secure method and good faith effort attempts.

[Read more](#)

OCR Issues Guidance on Telehealth Remote Communications Following its Notification of Enforcement Discretion 3/20/2020

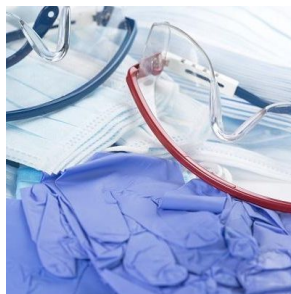
Summary – To help clarify the changes related to using telehealth services, this document outlines frequently asked questions (FAQs), including:

- What covered entities are included and excluded under the notification?
- Which parts of the HIPAA Rules are included in the notification?
- Where can health care providers conduct telehealth?
- What is a “non-public facing” remote communication product?

Recommendations – Review the FAQs if you are using telehealth to assure your process is still within the scope of protections. [Answers can be found here.](#)

Other notices, guidance and bulletins can be found on the HHS HIPAA, Civil Rights and COVID-19 website. Be sure and check [their site](#) often for updates.

PPE



View our updated information on personal protective equipment at [ARKMED.org/ppe](https://www.arkmed.org/ppe) or visit [arkansasready.com/ppe](https://www.arkansasready.com/ppe) for Arkansas PPE vendors.

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 Resources



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.

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