



## COVID-19 Update, 5\4

May 4, 2020 | [ARKMED.org/covid19](https://arkmed.org/covid19)

### Status Update as of 5\4, from ADH Website:

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

It will be updated four times a day.

- Confirmed cumulative cases in Arkansas - 3458
- Active cases - 1362
- Recovered patients - 2016
- Deaths - 81
- Patients in the hospital - 91
- Patients on ventilators - 16
- Healthcare workers - This information was not released today.

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### Ready for Business Grant Program Adds More Funding

Gov. Hutchinson announced today (5/4) that the Arkansas Ready for Business Grant program has received additional funding, and clinics may qualify for up to \$100,000 in grants to help offset the costs of ensuring the safety of their employees and patients. The website will be open for applications beginning tomorrow, May 5, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and on Wednesday, May 6, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

[For all of the details and grant program guidelines, visit the AEDC website.](#)

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### Clarification Regarding “Elective” Surgery

AMS is still receiving questions about the testing requirement for elective surgery, so hopefully this guidance will be helpful.

In a nutshell, if a delay in surgery could cause any harm, that surgery would not be considered “elective,” and the current 48-hour testing requirement for elective surgeries would not apply. In other words, if a patient has symptoms that could worsen or lead to other problems, surgery would NOT be considered elective.

An example would be a patient with recurrent ear infections. Surgery to insert tubes would not be considered elective because of the potential harm in delay. Physicians should exercise judgment in considering whether or not testing should be done, even though the results might not come back until after the procedure.

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### Poplar Healthcare Available to Assist in Testing

Poplar Healthcare, a lab company from Memphis, is now available to assist Arkansas hospitals and practices to meet the 48-hour deadline for testing. For assistance, please contact Senior Vice President Brett Kirkman at [b.kirkman@poplarhealthcare.com](mailto:b.kirkman@poplarhealthcare.com) or at 501-580-1761.

## AMA Advocacy Update

Click on the links below to read the updates from the American Medical Association.

**How doctors can claim share of additional \$20 billion in CARES Act aid**  
Physician practices will get COVID-19 relief pay in proportion to 2018 net patient revenue. Learn more about what steps to take next. [Read more from the AMA.](#)

## National Updates

[Bill Requires ERISA Plans to Cover Telehealth During COVID-19](#)

[FDA Warns Against Chloroquine for COVID-19 Outside Hospitals](#)

## Upcoming Events

### CMS COVID-19 Stakeholder Calls

Did you know CMS hosts COVID-19 calls for health care providers every Tuesday and Thursday? Get answers to your COVID-19 questions directly from CMS in this open forum. Read answers to questions from previous calls in this [FAQ document](#) or [sign up](#) to receive information on future calls.

### AMA Virtual Town Hall: COVID-19 and the Black Community

May 6, 6:30 PM ET

Patrice A. Harris, M.D., M.A., joins NABJ President Dorothy Tucker to discuss how the pandemic is impacting the Black community, health equity, the importance of science, data collection, testing, and more. Space is limited, register to reserve your spot. [Register now.](#)

### PPE



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 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](https://www.arkmed.org/covid19).