



## COVID-19 Update, 7/6

July 6, 2020 | [ARKMED.org/covid19](https://arkmed.org/covid19)

### Status Update as of 7/6 from ADH Website:

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

- Confirmed cumulative cases in Arkansas - 24,253
- Active cases - 6,127
- Recovered patients - 17,834
- New cases since 7/5- 439
- Deaths - 292
- Patients in the hospital - 337
- Patients on ventilators - 81

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### Contract Tracing Update

In today's press conference, the governor provided an update on the state's contract tracing efforts. As of today, there are 320 contract tracers with the Arkansas Department of Health, and General Dynamics will be providing an additional 350 contract tracers this week. In the near future, a third vendor will be adding another 350 contact tracing positions to help track COVID-19.

In order to accelerate how quickly the contract tracers can reach people, ADH is sharing the phone number that the tracers will be calling from. If you see 877-272-6819 on your phone, it is a legitimate number from a contact tracer. These tracers will make calls during the day and on the weekend, but will not call after 8 p.m. They will be verifying information provided to them, and will never ask for money.

[Click here for more information from ADH.](#)

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### AFMC Webinar: HIPAA Considerations for Telehealth Thursday, July 9 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

As a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency, the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) released official guidance encouraging the use of telehealth as a safer alternative to in-office visits. Additionally, OCR stated they would exercise enforcement discretion for practices using non-HIPAA compliant technology to deliver patient care during this emergency.

It is important however, to continue to follow the HIPAA Privacy Rule, properly document patient visits, track technology used for remote patient visits, and to start the process of identifying and implementing HIPAA compliant technology.

This webinar on Thursday, July 9 will take a look at choosing secure technology, obtaining informed consent, how long the OCR changes might last, and other tips to protect patient's privacy during telehealth visits.

[Register Today!](#)

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## Provider Relief Fund Update

HHS recently announced the additional distributions from the [Provider Relief Fund](#) to eligible Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) providers that participate in state Medicaid and CHIP programs. HHS expects to distribute approximately \$15 billion to eligible providers that participate in state Medicaid and CHIP programs and have not received a payment from the Provider Relief Fund General Distribution. Eligible providers must submit their data by July 20.

Before applying through the [Enhanced Provider Relief Fund Payment Portal](#), applicants can [watch a webinar about the application process for Medicaid/CHIP providers](#). An additional webinar is scheduled for Wednesday, July 8 at 4:00 pm EDT, which you can register for [here](#). I also encourage you to review the most recent FAQs on the program and the Medicaid/CHIP targeted distribution [here](#).

## Serious Adverse Health Events Associated with Methanol-based Hand Sanitizers

The Arkansas Department of Health has issued a warning about methanol-based hand sanitizers. [Read the guidance here](#).

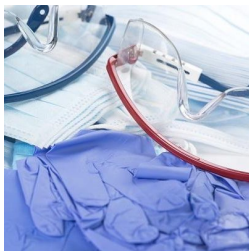
## Still need PPE? Let us know!

We are continuing to receive additional shipments of PPE. If you are still in need, please fill out our form again and we'll work to get supplies to you in the next few weeks.



[www.arkmed.org/pperequestform](http://www.arkmed.org/pperequestform)

### PPE



View our updated information on personal protective equipment at [ARKMED.org/ppe](http://ARKMED.org/ppe) or visit [arkansasready.com/ppe](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://ARKMED.org/covid19).