



COVID-19 Update, 10/30

October 30, 2020 | [ARKMED.org/covid19](https://arkmed.org/covid19)

Status Update as of 10/29 from ADH Website:

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

- Total cumulative cases in Arkansas - 109,712
- New confirmed cases since 10/28 - 1072
- Active cases - 7,466
- Recovered patients - 92,172
- Deaths - 1,894
- Patients in the hospital - 666
- Patients on ventilators - 100

CMS Takes Steps to Ensure Coverage of COVID-19 Vaccines and Therapies

On October 28, CMS released a comprehensive plan with proactive measures to remove regulatory barriers and ensure consistent coverage and payment for the administration of an eventual vaccine for millions of Americans. They also released a set of toolkits for providers, states and insurers to help the health care system prepare to swiftly administer the vaccine once it is available.

These resources are designed to increase the number of providers that can administer the vaccine, ensure adequate reimbursement for administering the vaccine in Medicare, while making it clear to private insurers and Medicaid programs their responsibility to cover the vaccine at no charge to beneficiaries. In addition, CMS is taking action to increase reimbursement for any new COVID-19 treatments that are approved or authorized by the FDA.

[Read More Here.](#)

Weekly Update from Arkansas Center for Health Improvement

In a week when the state set a record for current COVID-19 hospitalizations, more Arkansas lawmakers announced that they tested positive for the coronavirus, bringing the total to 10, the second largest outbreak in any state legislature. Count on further insight, tracking, and analysis here and on our [COVID-19 in Arkansas page](#), where we continue to update our maps and data on COVID-19 deaths and known infections.

[Read More Here.](#)

Imminent Cybercrime Threat to US Health Care Providers

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and two [federal agencies are warning](#) of an "imminent cybercrime threat" to US hospitals and health care providers, noting that several hospitals across the country have already been hit. In a joint advisory, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency

(CISA), FBI and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) said they have "credible information" that cybercriminals are taking new aim at health care providers and public health agencies as the COVID-19 pandemic reaches new heights.

"Malicious cyber actors" may soon be planning to "infect systems with Ryuk ransomware for financial gain" on a scale not yet seen across the American healthcare system. Hospitals, physician practices, and public health organizations should take "timely and reasonable precautions to protect their networks from these threats."

Malware targeting techniques often lead to "ransomware attacks, data theft, and the disruption of healthcare services." The agencies recommend several mitigation steps and best practices for health care entities to take to reduce their risk, including the following:

- Patch operating systems, software, and firmware as soon as manufacturers release updates.
- Regularly change passwords to network systems and accounts and avoid reusing passwords for different accounts.
- Use multi-factor authentication where possible.
 - Disallow use of personal email accounts
- Disable unused remote access/Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP) ports and monitor remote access/RDP logs.
- Identify critical assets; create backups of these systems and house the backups offline from the network.
- Set antivirus and anti-malware solutions to automatically update; conduct regular scans.

The [AMA and the American Hospital Association \(AHA\)](#) have created two resources to help physicians and hospitals guard against cyber threats. Those resources and additional cyber security information can be found at the [AMA's cybersecurity webpage](#).

Take our PPE Survey

AMS would like to determine the extent to which the private PPE supply chains are opening back up. Please take a minute to let us know what you can and cannot purchase.

[Click here to take our one-minute survey](#)

PPE



View our information on personal protective equipment at [ARKMED.org/ppe](https://www.arkmed.org/ppe) or visit 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](https://www.arkmed.org/covid19).

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