



Missouri Alliance for HOME CARE

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May 22, 2020

Please find information related to the following:

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- **Senate Approves Measures to Relax Rules of Paycheck Protection Program**
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COVID-19 Site-Specific Calls for Home Health & Hospice and Nursing Homes – June 23rd and 24th

This week's COVID-19 Care Site-Specific calls for home health & hospice and nursing homes are as follows:

- **Home Health and Hospice**
Tuesday, June 23rd
2:00 – 2:30 PM Central
Toll Free Attendee Dial-In: 833-614-0820
Access Passcode: 3676539
Audio Webcast Link: <https://protect2.fireeye.com/url?k=84577d6d-d8035446-84574c52-0cc47a6d17cc-4851ff5eae8ad0f8&u=https://engage.vevent.com/rt/cms2/index.jsp?seid=2165>
- **Nursing Homes**
Wednesday, June 24th
3:30 – 4:00 PM Central
Toll Free Attendee Dial-In: 833-614-0820
Access Passcode: 3089577
Audio Webcast Link: <https://protect2.fireeye.com/url?k=3723a473-6b76ada3-3723954c-0cc47a6a52de-5d0aa8ceae593a5e&u=https://engage.vevent.com/rt/cms2/index.jsp?seid=2220>

Bipartisan Letter from Senators Urges Permanent Expansion of Telehealth

On Monday, June 15th a group of 30 bipartisan senators sent a [letter](#) to Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) requesting that recent expansions and flexibilities made for telehealth due to the COVID-19 pandemic be made permanent.

In the early days of the pandemic, Congress and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) made numerous changes to the provision and eligibility requirements for telehealth services across multiple provider sectors. Notable was the allowance of telehealth to perform the face-to-face visit for hospice recertification. As with many of telehealth relaxations, this is currently limited to the extent of the public health emergency. This provision was originally included in the [CONNECT for Health Act](#) (S. 2741/H.R. 4932), as introduced by Senators Brian Schatz (D-HI) and Roger Wicker (R-MS), who also led this sign-on letter to Senate leadership. Citing expanded access to care through telehealth, the signing Senators are requesting that all provisions from the CONNECT for Health Act that have been included in previous COVID-19 legislation be made permanent.

The Senators go on to state the importance of telehealth in ensuring access to care while reducing the risk of infection and further spread of COVID-19 as additional support for their request.

In addition to the permanency request, the Senators also recommend for data collection and analysis of telehealth usage, "Specifically, the federal government should collect and analyze data on the impact of telehealth on utilization, quality, health outcomes, and spending during the COVID-19 pandemic. There is currently a scarcity of data available regarding the impact of telehealth on the Medicare program. This data would assist Congress in crafting additional policies to improve health outcomes and use resources more effectively."

Senate Approves Measures to Relax Rules of Paycheck Protection Program

The United States Senate approved on June 3, new legislation to relax rules applying to businesses receiving paycheck protection program (PPP) funds under the CARES Act. The new rules will give small businesses more time to repay funds and allow more flexibility on how the funds are spent.

The legislation passed the Senate by unanimous consent. Rep. Dean Phillips (D-MN) introduced the measure in the House of Representatives, where it passed by a vote of 417-1 on May 28.

The PPP program was created as part of the *CARES Act* that became law in March and served as a large stimulus package designed to offset the impacts of the coronavirus. The *CARES Act* authorized the Small Business Administration to make loans to small businesses that would be forgiven if certain requirements were met. These include an eight-week window for the funds to be spent on expenses such as payroll, rent, mortgage interest, and utilities. In addition, 75 percent of the loan a business received has to be spent on payroll.

Congress appropriated \$350 billion for the PPP program in the CARES Act and subsequent legislation authorized an additional \$320 billion for the PPP program as the initial amount was quickly exhausted.

As approved by the House and Senate, [H.R. 7010](#), *Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act* provides for the following changes to the PPP program:

- Extension of the eight-week requirement for funds to be spent to 24 weeks. (The eight-week period began expiring on May 29 for the first loan recipients on April 3.)
- A decrease of the requirement that 75 percent of funds be spent on payroll down to 60 percent. If 60 percent is not spent on payroll none of the loan will be forgiven. This is a change from the original requirements where some of the loan would still be forgiven if the 75 percent standard was not met.
- The requirement for restoring the workforce to pre-pandemic levels has been extended through December 31, 2020 to obtain full loan forgiveness.
- Creates two new exceptions to the pre-pandemic workforce levels requirement for loan forgiveness. 1.) If the business cannot find qualified workers, or 2.) If businesses have not returned to pre-pandemic levels due to COVID-19.
- Loan repayment has been extended from two to five years.

Husch Blackwell Updated COVID-19 Resources Available to MAHC Members

The Husch Blackwell resources have been updated with the following information concerning COVID-19, the CARES Act and Return to Work information:

- **COVID-19 Toolkit:**
Updated: [Workplace Issues and COVID-19](#)
- **CARES Act:**
Updated: [FAQ: CARES Act SBA Loan Programs](#)
Updated: [FAQ: Paycheck Protection Program Forgiveness for Borrowers](#)
- **Return to Work:**
[Employers May Mandate COVID-19 Viral Tests but Not Antibody Tests Upon Return to Work](#)

Demobilizing National Guard and Closure of Drop-off/Pick-up Sites for Battelle Decontamination Sites

The Missouri National Guard will be demobilizing from staffing at the Battelle N95 mask decontamination sites including the 13 out-state drop-off/pick-up armory sites and the Jefferson City processing site as of June 30. While the Battelle CCDS is still available for use, the options to send your N95 respirators for decontamination have changed.

- As of June 30th, 2020, the Battelle drop-off and pick-up sites across the state for N95 respirators will no longer be available.
- Healthcare providers and first responders are encouraged to send their masks to Jefferson City for decontamination via FedEx.
- Battelle will provide shipping labels for you to use to ship your labelled N95 respirators free of charge.

More information on the Battelle CCDS and information on how to get started is available at www.health.mo.gov/ppe.

FDA Launches COVID-19 Web Page For Health Professionals

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration recently created an online [compendium page](#) of COVID-19 resources for health care professionals. The FDA indicated it will regularly update the page, which provides useful information on several issues, including emergency use authorizations, personal protective equipment and medical products, such as investigational drugs and fraudulent devices.

Cancellation of Provider Reassessment Training for Calendar Year 2020

The Bureau of Long Term Services and Supports issued [memorandum INFO-06-20-01](#) to advise Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) staff and stakeholders due to COVID-19 the Division of Senior and Disability Services (DSDS) is cancelling all remaining Provider Reassessment Trainings for Calendar Year 2020. Notification through DSDS E-News will be sent when trainings are resumed.

Questions regarding the memorandum should be directed to the Bureau of Long Term Services and Supports (BLTSS) via e-mail at reassessortraining@health.mo.gov.

Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Services Reimbursement Rates

The Bureau of Long Term Services and Supports issued [memorandum HCBS-06-20-01](#) to advise Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) staff and stakeholders that effective July 1, 2020, the average statewide monthly nursing facility cost for care shall increase to \$3,467.80. For participants to 60% of the monthly cost maximum, the amount shall increase to \$2,080.68

MO HealthNet Providers/Billers – 6/12/20 Remittance Advice Notice

MO HealthNet posted the following information on June 15 related to the 6/12/20 remittance advice: The 6/12/20 remittance advice represents claims captured from 5/30/20 through 6/7/20 as outlined in the SFY20 Claims Processing Schedule made available in May 2019. Claims received between 6/8/20 through 6/26/20 will be processed on the next financial cycle, 6/26/20 which has a check/deposit date of 7/7/20.

Questions and comments regarding any other issues should be directed to: ask.MHD@dss.mo.gov