



Medical Society of Delaware  
LEADING THE WAY TO A HEALTHY DELAWARE

# COVID-19 UPDATES

## 3-26-2020

*In an effort to keep Delaware's medical community current on the latest information regarding the coronavirus crisis, the Medical Society of Delaware is sharing the following:*

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### First Delawarean Dies from COVID-19

The Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH) has announced the first COVID-19 related fatality of a Delaware resident. The deceased is a 66-year-old male from Sussex County who passed away while hospitalized out of state. The individual had underlying health conditions. Delaware now has 130 total laboratory-confirmed cases since March 11. This includes 13 individuals who are hospitalized within Delaware; seven are critically ill. Of the Delawareans diagnosed with COVID-19, 86 are from New Castle County, 17 are from Kent County, and 27 are from Sussex County. The median age is 45 in Delaware. [Read more.](#)

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### Hydroxychloroquine and Chloroquine Supply Issues

The Division of Professional Regulation (DPR) has received a number of complaints regarding the improper and over prescribing of both hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine during the COVID-19 pandemic. Prescribers are prescribing these medications for new patients to have on hand if they experience signs of infection. To date, there are no studies to prove efficacy or safety of these drugs to treat COVID-19 in a community setting. DPR has asked physicians to please refrain from prescribing these drugs prophylactically for COVID-19 exposure. [Read more.](#)

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### Federal Stimulus Package

Late Wednesday night the Senate approved a massive \$2 trillion stimulus and COVID-19 relief package. Provisions of particular interest to physicians and

their practices include the following:

- Creates a new loan product within the Small Business Administration for loans of up to \$10 million to help cover payroll and overhead costs, with expanded loan forgiveness criteria. Physician practices with not more than 500 employees may qualify.
- \$100 billion in direct financial support to hospitals, physician practices, and other health care providers under the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund. This support is for costs of treating COVID-19 patients as well as to ease the financial impact on those who lose revenue due reductions in other services as a result of the pandemic. Exact eligibility criteria and application process is not yet defined pending implementation.
- Suspension of the 2% Medicare sequester in May through December 2020.
- Limitations on liability for volunteer health care professionals during COVID-19 emergency response.
- A temporary waiver of the face-to-face visit requirement with home dialysis patients.
- Authority for the Secretary of HHS to waive telehealth coverage requirements for new patients during a national emergency. Previous legislation provided flexibility only for established patients seen within the past three years.
- The Secretary will also allow for enhanced use of telehealth under Medicare for federally qualified health centers.

Also of interest, the “health extenders” package that was set to expire on May 22 has now been extended to November 30. House passage is expected on Friday and the President is expected to sign the bill into law.

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## Temple University Hosts Live Webinar From China - TONIGHT

Tonight, **Thursday, March 26 at 8:30 p.m.**, Temple Lung Center's Dr. Gerard Criner will join his colleagues from China and the U.S. in a live stream webinar. Dr. Criner will specifically discuss the U.S. status and Temple University Hospital's experience with the COVID-19 crisis. [View full agenda.](#)

[Watch Webinar:](#)

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## DPH Nightly Conference Calls to Resume Next Week.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the evening COVID-19 information calls with DPH. DPH is grateful for all our thoughtful questions and the amount of participation. The next call will be **Tuesday, March 31st** at 6pm. Dial in information will be provided closer to the date of the call. All the calls have been recorded and are available on the [Medical Society of Delaware Coronavirus website page](#). MSD has compiled a *frequently asked question*

(FAQ) information sheet with many of the questions asked by physicians and practice managers from these calls. [Read Updated FAQ.](#)

[Listen to 3-25-2020 call](#)

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## Are You Looking for Ways to Help During the Coronavirus Crisis?

If you are looking for ways to help, and if you have areas of medical, public health, and/or behavioral health expertise that could be utilized in Delaware's response to the coronavirus pandemic, the University of Delaware's Partnership for Healthy Communities is looking for helping hands. Please complete a short information form to be identified as a resource. [Complete information form.](#)

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*For more information and resources regarding COVID-19, MSD has created a coronavirus resource page on our website. [View resource page.](#)*

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