



Medical Society of Delaware
LEADING THE WAY TO A HEALTHY DELAWARE

COVID-19 UPDATE

4-16-2020

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:

DPH Announces 61 New COVID-19 Cases and Six Additional Deaths

According to the Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH), 88 new Delawareans have been diagnosed with COVID-19, taking the total number of lab-confirmed cases to **2,075**, including **209** who are hospitalized, **60** of whom are critically ill.

Fifty-two individuals have died due to COVID-19 in Delaware, **27** of whom were residents of long-term care facilities. As of today, there have been **97** positive COVID-19 cases involving long-term care facilities in Delaware.

The most recent deaths involved:

- 57-year-old male from New Castle County, hospitalized long-term care resident
- 72-year-old female from New Castle County, hospitalized
- 84-year-old male from New Castle County, hospitalized
- 71-year-old male from New Castle County
- 59-year-old female from Kent County
- 68-year-old male from Sussex County, hospitalized long-term care resident

[Read more.](#)

MSD Past President Discusses COVID-19 and its Impact on the Black Community

MSD Past President Richard W. Henderson, MD, DHSS Secretary Kara Odom

Walker, MD, and Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League President & CEO Eugene Young discussed COVID-19 and its impact on Delaware's black community on a Zoom teleconference call this week. [Click here to watch.](#)

DPH Issues Protocols for Performing COVID-19 Rapid Tests

The Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH) has issued provider protocols for performing rapid COVID-19 IgG/IgM tests. DPH has designed a special page on their website where important provider guidance for COVID-19 testing can be found. [Read more.](#)

Important CARES Act Information for Physicians

The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) has partnered with UnitedHealth Group (UHG) to deliver the disbursement of the first \$30 million of the emergency fund created under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to physicians and other providers via direct payment. Physicians should contact UHG's Provider Relations at **866-569-3522** with concerns about eligibility, whether a payment has been issued, and where it was sent.

HHS has opened the [CARES Act Provider Relief Fund Payment Attestation Portal](#). Physicians who have been allocated a payment from the initial \$30 billion general distribution must sign an attestation confirming receipt of the funds and agree to the terms and conditions within 30 days of payment. [Read more.](#)

CARES Act - Your Support is Needed

As Congress considers next steps for a "phase four" coronavirus relief bill package to confront this emergency of extraordinary—and yet, unknown—proportions, the physician community is strongly urging Congress to take additional steps to protect patient access to care by preserving the viability of physician practices as part of the nation's essential health care system. Any additional coronavirus relief package should:

- Continue the expansion of and add flexibility for Medicare accelerated and advanced payments to give physicians greater ability to deal with the current crisis
- Better address Medicare and Medicaid payment policy to account for the lack of positive updates to further assist America's doctors caring for patients during the pandemic
- Include direct financial support to help sustain physician practices through the COVID-19 crisis including access to small business loans recently authorized by the Small Business Administration

- Continue support for the expansion of telehealth by requiring ERISA group health plans to provide the same telehealth services being covered by Medicare
- Increase support for resident physicians and students through federal loan forgiveness and tuition relief, including third and fourth year medical students
- Institute broader liability protection for physicians and clinicians as they continue their front-line fight against COVID-19

Please contact your congressional delegation today and tell them that any additional COVID-19 relief legislation should include the physician and patient protections outlined above. [Read more.](#)

AMA Offers Tips for Keeping Your Practice in Business During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The AMA recently published a useful financial checklist to help keep private practices financially afloat during the COVID-19 pandemic. The checklist contains valuable tips about preparing for staff exposures and identifying and implementing clinical protocols that are specific to the disease. [Read check list.](#)

"CMS Lessons from the Front Lines" Call Tomorrow

Tomorrow, **Friday, April 17th from 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.** there will be an informative call provided by Centers for Medicare and Medical Services (CMS) as part of the *Lessons from the Front Lines: COVID-19* series. This call series is an opportunity to hear physicians and other clinical leaders share their experiences, best practices, strategies, and insights related to COVID-19.

Participant Dial-In: (877) 251-0301. Access Code: 8672948

[To register.](#)

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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