

# IHA COVID Resources and Advocacy

July 31, 2020

## The latest about COVID-19 from IHA

### Senate coronavirus aid plan unveiled

Monday, the US Senate released their version of the next coronavirus support package, the Health, Economic Assistance, Liability protection and Schools (HEALS) Act. The nearly \$1 trillion package includes provisions that:

- Add \$25 billion for the Provider Relief Fund.
- Allocate additional funds for the Paycheck Protection Program.
- Increase the flexibility of some of the Paycheck Protection Program's terms.
- Give some existing borrowers the ability to apply for additional Paycheck Protection Program funds.
- Delay the start of the repayment clock for Medicare accelerated payments to 270 days after funds are issued.
- Extend the repayment period for Medicare accelerated payments to 18 months.
- Extend telehealth flexibilities through the end of the public health emergency or Dec. 31, 2021, whichever is later.
- Include liability protections for health care providers from injuries concerning COVID-19-related treatment, diagnosis and care from Dec. 1, 2019-Oct. 1, 2024.

The package has yet to be voted on by the Senate, though members of Congress will work throughout the next couple of weeks with the goal to have a package sent to the president by the beginning of the August recess.

### Letter urges CMS to delay repayment of accelerated payments

Six national organizations representing hospitals [today urged](#) the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to delay the start of repayments associated with the Medicare Accelerated and Advance Payment Programs. The first hospitals and health systems to receive accelerated payments are scheduled to start repaying them soon.

The letter was signed by the American Hospital Association, America's Essential Hospitals, the Association of American Medical Colleges, Catholic Health Association of the United States, Federation of American Hospitals and National Association for Behavioral Healthcare.

### 2019 occupational mix survey deadline extended

CMS has extended the deadline for hospitals to submit the 2019 occupational mix survey to **Thursday, Sept. 3**. Hospitals must submit their surveys along with complete supporting documentation to their Medicare administrative contractor. Hospitals then may submit revisions to surveys by Thursday, Sept. 10.

### Communicating From Behind the Mask

*11:30 am-12:30 pm Thursday, July 30*

This complimentary webinar will focus on the story of communication among a patient, his family and his physician during his almost two-month battle against COVID-19. Barbara Burnes, director of the workforce development and service excellence

departments at Floyd Medical Center in Rome, Georgia, will give participants tips for communicating behind the mask. Register [HERE](#).

### **COVID-19: Behavioral Health and Post-acute Care**

*3-4 pm Tuesday, Aug. 4*

This session will review the experience of members from the New Jersey Hospital Association on both behavioral health and post-acute areas. Speakers will discuss lessons learned and best practice for managing challenges throughout COVID-19 focusing on behavioral health and post-acute care. Register [HERE](#).

### **Leadership and Resiliency: Navigating Through and Beyond COVID-19 – How Hospitals and Health Systems Can Lead a “Quiet Revolution” for Healing During a Pandemic**

*Noon-1 pm Thursday, Aug. 6*

This presentation is led by Dayna Bowen Matthew, JD, PhD, the new dean for George Washington University Law School. Dr. Matthew has spent much of her career focusing on racial disparities in health care. She'll examine the role health providers can play in increasing health equity. This session, and the entire series, is complimentary. Register [HERE](#).

### **Cultivating Good Health Through Personal Vitality: Developing Resilience for Personal and Professional Well-being**

*2-3 pm Thursday, Aug. 6*

This webinar will discuss the fundamentals of resilience and long-term strategies for developing a resilient core. Participants will examine the value of developing a flexible mindset and focusing on the positive when all around seems negative. Participants will learn how to conduct a resilience assessment and create a support system when facing challenges. Register [HERE](#).



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