

IHA COVID Resources and Advocacy

June 9, 2020

The latest about COVID-19 from IHA

FDA reissues respirators guidelines with new decontamination-for-reuse instructions

The FDA has determined certain respirators should not be decontaminated for reuse by health care professionals during the COVID-19 public health emergency. The FDA [no longer recommends](#) the decontamination and reuse of Chinese-manufactured respirators because of varying design and performance results. Additionally, respirators with exhalation valves are no longer recommended for decontamination and reuse.

The FDA is only authorizing decontamination systems' uses on non-cellulose-compatible N95 respirators. Health care personnel should not reuse respirators incompatible with authorized decontamination systems but have nonetheless been decontaminated.

In all instances, health care personnel should continue to use the decontamination process only when new, FDA-cleared N95 respirators, NIOSH-approved N95 respirators or other FDA-authorized respirators are not available.

HHS announces new laboratory data-reporting guidance for COVID-19 testing

The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has [announced](#) new guidance specifying what additional data must be reported to HHS by laboratories with COVID-19 test results. The guidance standardizes reporting to ensure public health officials have access to comprehensive and nearly real-time data to inform decision-making in their response to COVID-19.

All disaster preparation can benefit from hurricane season planning during COVID-19

The health care and public health sector faces a unique set of challenges as government and industry stakeholders prepare for the 2020 hurricane season during COVID-19. Resources are being made available to help think through and refresh preparedness plans, policies and procedures for this hurricane season.

Stakeholders in the preparation for all disasters are encouraged to plan with community partners including [health care coalitions](#), [Medical Reserve Corps](#) units and service providers. Information recently developed for the hurricane season that can be useful in responding to all disasters during COVID-19 includes:

- Assistance Center and Information Exchange's [considerations](#) for health care and emergency management professionals when planning for all hazard secondary disasters during a public health emergency.
- FEMA's [COVID-19 Pandemic Operational Guidance for the 2020 Hurricane Season](#) to help emergency managers and public health officials better prepare. The guidance outlines a variety of key actions and resources to prepare for response and recovery operations such as:
 - Describing anticipated challenges to disaster operations.
 - Highlighting planning considerations based on challenges.
 - Providing checklists and resources to support response and recovery planning.
- FEMA's [Exercise Starter Kit](#) with sample documents organizations can use to conduct a planning workshop to navigate the

complexities of returning to full operations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

CEO update call

The next CEO update call is scheduled from **1-2 pm Wednesday, June 17**. Register [here](#).

Free webinar opportunities

- 2-3 pm Tuesday, June 9, ***The Times They are a-Changing: Thriving in Uncertainty***. For the health of our communities, it is important for health care workers to thrive and succeed. But COVID-19 places additional stressors on health care workers. This webinar provides information and practical tools that health care workers can use to improve patient care by improving the resilience and well-being of employees and their employers. Register [here](#).
- 11 am-Noon Wednesday, June 10, ***COVID-19 Investment Implications for Health Care Organizations***. Speakers will share valuable insights into the macroeconomic and capital markets and offer views on where areas of investment risk and opportunity may lie. They also will discuss the investment implications of COVID-19 and best practices for managing health care investment funds in a time of uncertainty. Register [here](#).
- 8:30-9:30 am Tuesday, June 16, ***Coding, Documentation and Compliance Issues for COVID-19 Services***. Presented by Healthcare Coding and Consulting Services, this webinar will discuss COVID-19 coding, documentation and compliance issues, including appropriate telehealth coding and revenue recovery from Medicare's waiver of cost sharing for testing. Register [here](#).
- 2-3 pm Tuesday, June 23, ***Cultivating Good Health Through Personal Vitality Series***. We are living in a time in which good health is defined as much by our resiliency and vitality as it is by physical measurements. This webinar focuses on living a vibrant life, even when dealing with anxiety, depression, pain or stress. Register [here](#).

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