



## **HHS Announces Relief Fund Distributions for Safety Net Hospitals, Medicaid & CHIP Providers**

**Medicaid.gov**  
Keeping America Healthy

Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), is announcing additional distributions from the Provider Relief Fund to eligible Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) providers that participate in state Medicaid and CHIP programs. HHS expects to distribute approximately \$15 billion to eligible providers that participate in state Medicaid and CHIP programs and have not received a payment from the Provider Relief Fund General Distribution. HHS is also announcing the distribution of \$10 billion in Provider Relief Funds to safety net hospitals that serve our most vulnerable citizens. The safety net distribution will occur this week. Starting June 10, HHS plans to launch a portal that will allow eligible physicians and organizations to report their annual patient revenue data and other necessary information to receive a payment equal to at least 2 percent of reported gross revenues from patient care.

"Healthcare providers who focus on treating the most vulnerable Americans, including low-income and minority patients, are absolutely essential to our fight against COVID-19," said HHS Secretary Alex Azar. "HHS is using funds from Congress, secured by President Trump, to provide new targeted help for America's safety-net providers and clinicians who treat millions of Medicaid beneficiaries."

HHS is providing support to healthcare providers fighting the COVID-19 pandemic through the bipartisan CARES Act and the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act, which allocated \$175 billion in relief funds to hospitals and other healthcare providers, including those disproportionately impacted by this pandemic.

[See the Full Alert Here](#)



## **COMING SOON!**

# **Hand Sanitizer Solution**

The Medical Association has partnered with Blue Ridge Southern Supply, LLC in Georgia to provide a Hand Sanitizer ordering solution.

### **Hand Sanitizer Options that will be Available include:**

70% Alcohol Gel Hand Sanitizer. Twelve (12), One (1) Liter bottles with pull tab cap. Unscented.

More details will be announced tomorrow.

# Alabama's First Addiction Fellowship



With the dramatic increase in addiction problems and addiction related deaths in the US and Alabama, the psychiatry residency program director, Luke Engeriser, with the support of the University of South Alabama's and AltaPointe's health systems, put together Alabama's first addiction fellowship. It was just recently granted accreditation by the ACGME and is ready to enroll its first fellow as early as July, 2020. The fellowship will be an integrated program between psychiatry, internal medicine, and pediatrics, with applicants from any of the specialties considered. It is one year in duration, with salary and benefits commensurate with other fellowships at this level of training.

"Our nation has experienced unprecedented levels of problems related to addiction during the opioid epidemic, and physicians with expertise in Addiction Medicine are in very short supply in the United States generally and in Alabama in particular. Early evidence shows that problems related to addiction to alcohol and other drugs have been exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic, so high-quality addiction treatment will be in even greater demand in the coming years," said Dr. Engeriser. "This will be a benefit to all Alabamians as there are few of us that are not touched in some way by addiction either in ourselves or in people that we care about."

[Anyone interested can contact Dr. Engeriser here.](#)

[Read More Information Here](#)

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**Alabama Medical Association & AMA  
Partner on COVID-19 Survey to  
Help Protect Physicians**



Fellow Alabama physicians,

I would like to encourage you to complete a survey that the American Medical Association (AMA) and the Medical Association of the State of Alabama developed to support you for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The survey addresses some important issues, including how much time you have spent caring for COVID-19 patients, the availability of PPE, health care staff and patient safety and wellbeing, telehealth, billing and reimbursement, how the pandemic has affected your practice, your expectations for what will transpire over the next several months, the efficacy of the federal relief packages, and “re-opening” barriers.

We will use the results of this survey to advocate on your behalf with legislators, regulators, and other key stakeholders.

The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete. The deadline to complete the survey is the end of the day on Friday, June 19.

Note that results of the numerical survey questions will only be presented in the aggregate, and any open-ended comments that are shared will not include any identifying information.

Contact Mark Jackson with the Medical Association of the State of Alabama ([mjackson@alamedical.org](mailto:mjackson@alamedical.org)) with any questions.

My sincere thanks for everything that you have done to care for your patients during this challenging time – and rest assured that the Medical Association and the AMA will continue to do everything possible to help and protect you.

John S. Meigs, MD  
President

[Click Here to Take the Survey](#)

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# ADPH to Reduce Operating Hours for Statewide COVID-19 Hotline

Based on a reduction in telephone call volume after hours, the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) has shortened the operating hours of its statewide informational hotline for general COVID-19 questions. Effective June 15, the toll-free line will be available from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m., seven days a week. If the need presents itself, hours can be readjusted quickly.

The hotline allows the public the ability to speak with someone who can provide information or direct them to a contact who can assist them. A general information email option is also available during these hours.

[See the full News Release Here.](#)

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## PPE Supply Source

As previously announced, the Medical Association has been working with Jason Allman who is a practice administrator in Huntsville and has found a source for much-needed PPE. In working with the Medical Association, Jason has offered to sell extra PPE supplies to physicians across the state who are in need. Below is a list of items available to order:

- 3-ply medical masks
- KN95 respirator masks
- isolation gowns
- IR thermometers

**Simply email him (ppehelp@ppoal.com) a list of supplies and quantities you are looking for and he will reply promptly.** Also, if you would like to speak with someone about your questions or concerns then add your contact name and direct number where you can be reached and he will call you back.

***\*Note: This is a different supply source than the ActionPPE that is available to order on the Medical Association's website.***

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# COVID-19 QUESTIONS? GET ANSWERS & EARN CME.



As providers, physicians and members of the health care team want to do whatever they can to ensure the health and well-being of their patients. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the practice of medicine is facing challenges in delivering the best care amid government mandates and ever-changing public perceptions of the situation. At the Medical Association of the State of Alabama, we want to help by offering online COVID-19 CME courses (free for members).

Courses include:

- **PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS IN THE COVID-19 ERA**
- **PPE FOR PHYSICIANS: NEW, USED AND REFRESHED**
- **AN INFECTIOUS DISEASE DOCTOR'S SYMPTOMS OF COVID AND THOUGHTS ABOUT THE PANDEMIC**

**Credits**

The Medical Foundation of Alabama designates this enduring material for a maximum of .25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits<sup>™</sup>. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Medical Association of the State of Alabama through the joint providership of the Medical Foundation of Alabama and the Medical Association of the State of Alabama. The Medical Foundation of Alabama is accredited by the Medical Association of the State of Alabama to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

[HTTPS://WWW.ALAMEDICAL.ORG/COVID19](https://www.alamedical.org/covid19)



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