

### Medical Association Update | September 8, 2020

Tue, Sep 8, 2020 at 4:18 PM



## How many COVID cases has your county had since March?

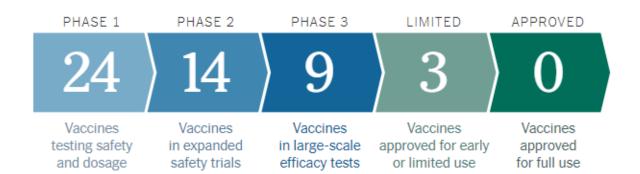


Alabama added more than 400 new confirmed coronavirus cases since yesterday, bringing the state's total to 121,879.

ADPH's Sept. 8 numbers – released roughly an hour early from the typical schedule – show 11,727 presumed cases, an increase of 228 from yesterday. Presumed cases are mostly those confirmed by antigen, or quick, testing.

Find the latest county-by-county confirmed case results here

## **Coronavirus Vaccine Tracker**



Vaccines typically require years of research and testing before reaching the clinic, but scientists are racing to produce a safe and effective coronavirus vaccine by next year.

Work began in January with the deciphering of the SARS-CoV-2 genome. The first vaccine safety trials in humans started in March, but the road ahead remains uncertain. Some trials will fail, and others may end without a clear result. But a few may succeed in stimulating the immune system to produce effective antibodies against the virus.

Read the story from the New York Times

## Hopes Fading for Coronavirus Deal as Congress Returns



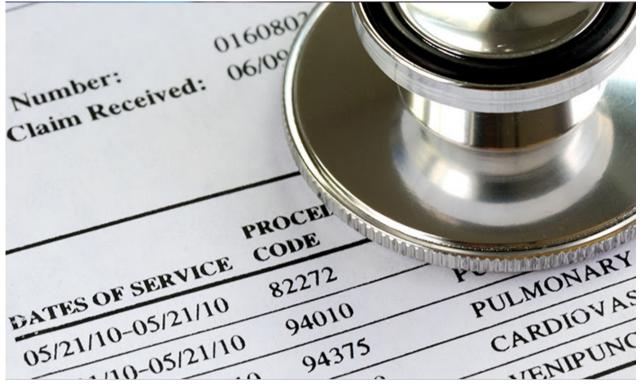
At least there won't be a government shutdown.

But as lawmakers straggle back to Washington for an abbreviated pre-election session, hopes are dimming for another coronavirus relief bill — or much else.

Talks between top Democrats and the Trump administration broke off last month and remain off track, with the bipartisan unity that drove almost \$3 trillion in COVID-19 rescue legislation into law this spring replaced by toxic partisanship and a return to Washington dysfunction.

### Read the story from Alabama Daily News here

## Proposed 2021 Medicare Pay Schedule: 9 Things Doctors Should Know



The Medical Association is working with the AMA and many national specialty organizations to eliminate or waive the 11% reduction in the Medicare conversion factor proposed by CMS in their recent physician payment rule. See the story below from the AMA.

Significant positive changes are on the way for 2021 related to coding and payment for evaluation and management (E/M) physician office-visit services. Also looming, however, are several potential negative changes, such an offsetting across-the-board payment cut for all physicians and other

health professionals, as detailed in the proposed 2021 Medicare physician payment schedule issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

While those two developments have garnered most of the attention, the 1,355-page document also contains a host of other details that signal how COVID-19, budget-neutrality requirements and a myriad of other factors will shape health care operations and economics next year.

Read the entire story from the AMA here

## Five Things to Consider When Selling Your Practice to a Private Equity Firm



A growing number of physicians are selling their medical practices to private equity firms in order to "monetize" their practice, as well as to access capital and obtain operational efficiencies. In the Southeast, we are seeing consistent private equity activity in the specialties of anesthesiology, gastroenterology, dermatology, ophthalmology, oncology, ENT, and internal medicine, as well as others.

Read more on NewsCenter

# Alabama Medicaid Agency Searching for a Medical Director

The Alabama Medicaid Agency, Montgomery Central Office, is seeking to fill a position of a Medicaid Medical Services Physician (40405). This is a Medical Director position and is responsible for providing

clinical leadership and guidance to the Alabama Medicaid Agency in coordination with the Commissioner's Office. This highly advanced professional, administrative, and medical position involves providing guidance in medical related services within the Alabama Medicaid Agency. Work involves providing assistance to agency officials in making determinations of level and quality of medical care provided to recipients by health care providers. Duties also include serving as medical consultant in the development and modification of health care policies and procedures, and the implementation of health care delivery systems statewide. Work is performed with a high degree of independent and professional judgment. This is a great opportunity for a Physician that wants to provide clinical guidance in an office setting.

#### **Competitive Benefits and Salary:**

- Desirable work schedule
- 40 hour work week (typically Monday Friday 8am to 5pm)
- Health Insurance Coverage (Medical, Dental and Vision)
- Paid time off (including state holidays, annual and sick time)

If you are interested in this position, please call the Alabama Medicaid Agency at 334.242.5600 for more information by September 15, 2020.



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### WHAT WE'RE READING

- Ivey urges public to fill out Census 'Alabama stands to lose too much'
- 'You don't exist': Inside UA's COVID-19 isolation dorms

- <u>NFIB survey shows business optimism, uncertainty both increasing amid COVID-19</u>
  <u>recovery efforts</u>
- CDC tells states: Be ready to distribute vaccines on Nov. 1
- <u>The Summer of COVID-19 ends with health officials worried</u>

