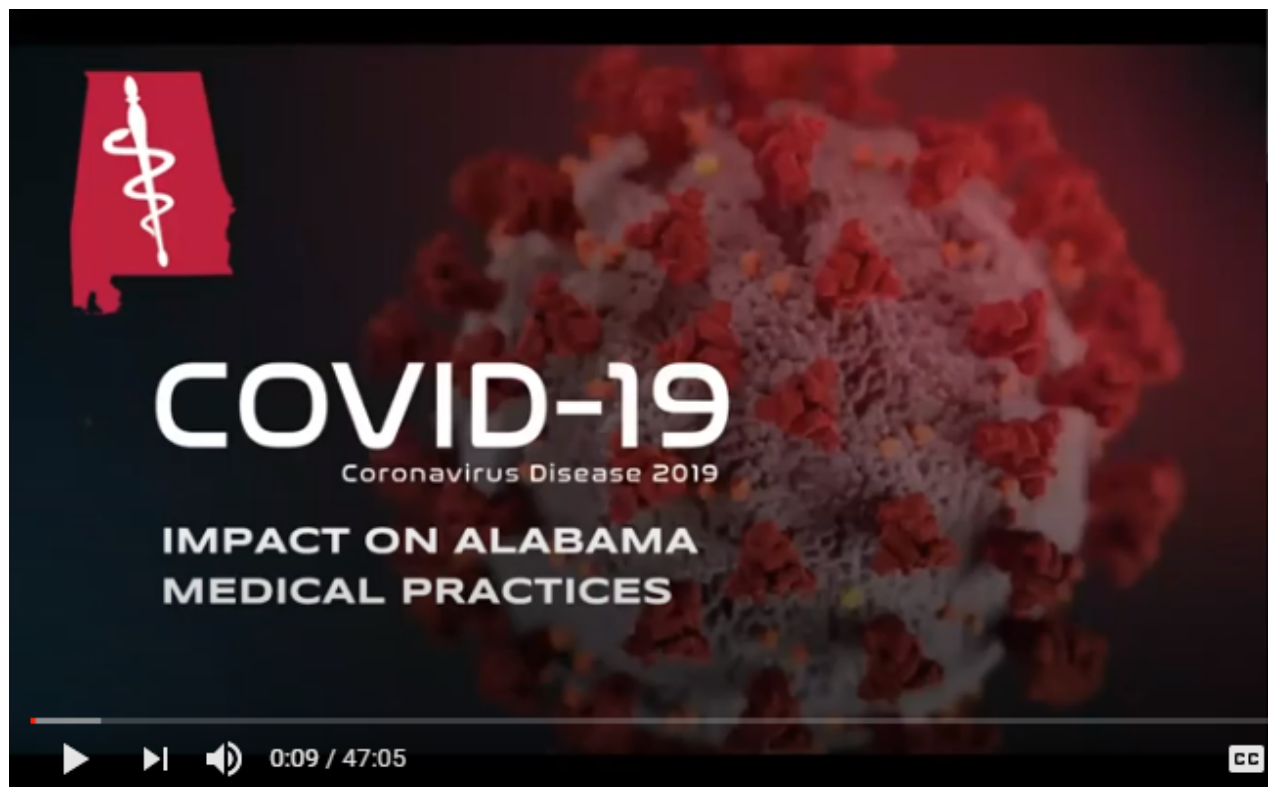




## Presentation Recording: New Grant Program for Alabama Physicians with COVID-19 Expenses



In response to our advocacy and recommendations, Governor Kay Ivey allocated \$35 million from Alabama's federal coronavirus relief money to set up a grant program to help physicians and other health care and emergency response providers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. On a first-come-first-serve basis, the state of Alabama will offer cash grants in an amount up to \$15,000 (per practice) for Alabama health care providers that meet eligibility requirements.

State Finance Director, Kelly Butler, joined us for a call last night to highlight new opportunities for financial assistance through Governor Ivey's Alabama Health Care and Emergency Response Providers grant program. He began with a brief overview of the program and focused on some frequently asked questions such as eligibility requirements, the application timeline and process, eligible expenses, and much more.

[Coronavirus Relief Fund Information](#)

[Provider Grant Program Overview and Eligibility](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[COVID-19 Relief Grant Program Website](#)

We applaud Governor Kay Ivey and her administration for recognizing the importance of physician practices to the economy, their respective communities, and the state as a whole. We believe that these funds will be critical to ensuring that physicians can continue to provide services to those who are in need of medical care.

Questions? Contact the Department of Finance at (334) 242-7160.

Watch the Zoom presentation [here](#)

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## **Alabama COVID mask order extended to Nov. 8**



Gov. Kay Ivey is extending the order requiring facial coverings in public places until Nov. 8.

Ivey and State Health Officer Dr. Scott Harris issued the mask order effective July 16 as the state saw increasing numbers of coronavirus cases. The order was extended twice, most recently on Aug. 27, and was set to expire Friday. It is now extended through Sunday, Nov. 8.

[Read the story from AL.com](#)

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**Trump tests positive for  
COVID-19, will begin 'quarantine  
and recovery process'**



President Donald Trump said early Friday that he and First Lady Melania Trump have tested positive for the coronavirus, a stunning announcement that plunges the country deeper into uncertainty just a month before the presidential election.

Trump, who has spent much of the year downplaying the threat of a virus that has killed more than 205,000 Americans, said he and Mrs. Trump were quarantining. The White House physician said the president is expected to continue carrying out his duties "without disruption" while recovering.

[Read the story from Alabama Daily News](#)

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## **Medical Association Advocates for the Future of Telehealth**



Last month our Third-Party Task Force met with Darrel Weaver, MD, the Vice President of Healthcare Network Services with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama. This meeting was an opportunity for us to reiterate our hopes that future Blue Cross telehealth coverage will be on par with in-person services, will be available to all PMD physicians whose services can reasonably be provided via telehealth, and will include audio telehealth visits for those patients who have limited broadband services.

[See our letter to Blue Cross here](#)

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## **HHS Announces a New Round of Provider Relief Funds**

HHS announced today that it will be disbursing another \$20 billion in CARES Act Provider Relief Funds. Under this Phase 3 General Distribution allocation, physicians that have already received Provider Relief Fund payments may apply for additional funding that considers financial losses and changes in operating expenses caused by the coronavirus.

Recognizing the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has increased anxiety and depression in the country and behavioral health providers have continued to provide care through telehealth and other means, HHS is also announcing that the nation's behavioral health care providers, including psychiatrists, are now eligible for funding.

Previously ineligible physicians, such as those who began practicing in 2020, will also be eligible to apply. Physicians will have from October 5, 2020 through November 6, 2020 to apply for Phase 3 General Distribution funding.

For more information, visit the [HHS website](#)

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## Upcoming Flu Vaccine Campaign



With flu season upon us, The Medical Association of the State of Alabama, the Alabama Department of Public Health, and the Alabama Hospital Association have partnered to provide messaging and information on the importance of the flu vaccine.

As we all know, with the ongoing spread of COVID-19, it is more important than ever for individuals to get their flu shots. Last year, less than half of Americans were vaccinated, so we have a large task ahead of us.

We have resources available for you to share with your local community including a joint, statewide news release and social media messaging and graphics.

[Resources available here](#)

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# Upcoming ACHN Webinar for Primary Care Providers

A webinar for ACHN providers is scheduled October 14, 2020 from 12-noon until 1:00 p.m. The Alabama Medicaid Agency will discuss changes to MARA Risk Scoring on provider scorecards and provide additional information and reminders for providers. Attendees will have the opportunity to submit questions during the live webinar. The webinar will also be recorded and placed on the ACHN Provider page on the Medicaid website.

**ACHN Provider Profiler Updates: MARA Risk Scoring**  
**Wednesday, October 14, 2020**  
**Noon – 1 pm**

Meeting number (access code): 133 888 5390

Meeting password: Medicaid1

or

Join by phone: 1-415-655-0001 US Toll

**WebEx Link**

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## Need PPE?

PPE is still available!

- Direct Shipping now available
- Free shipping on orders over \$500
- No \$500 limit

[Click here for info.](#)



## Sanistrap

SaniStrap contains wristband, two refillable bottles, and one travel size refill bottle. Sanitizer is NOT included in order - liquid gel sanitizer is recommended.

[Click here for info.](#)



## Hand Sanitizer

Hand Sanitizer Options Available are:

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

[Click here for info.](#)

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## WHAT WE'RE READING

- [COVID-19 vaccine mandates: What physicians should know](#)
- [Psychiatrist Offers Advice On How People Can Handle Stress During The COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [Reminder: Physicians, register to vote now](#)
- [Pfizer CEO pushes back against the claim on vaccine timing](#)
- [More talks on COVID relief](#)

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The banner features a teal background. On the left, the Medical Association of the State of Alabama logo is displayed above the text "COVID-19" in red and "EARN FREE CME" in large yellow letters. Below this, it says "FIND MORE INFORMATION ON COURSES HERE" in white. On the right, there is an illustration of a person sitting at a desk with a computer, looking at a screen. In the background, there are stylized virus particles.

MEDICAL ASSOCIATION  
OF THE STATE OF ALABAMA

**COVID-19**

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