



## Trump leaves hospital, returns to White House



President Donald Trump returned to the White House after leaving the military hospital where he was receiving care for COVID-19. Despite his illness, he declared that the nation should not fear the virus that has killed more than 210,000 Americans — and then he entered the White House without a protective mask.

Trump's message alarmed infectious disease experts and suggested the president's own illness had not caused him to rethink his attitude toward the disease, which has also infected the first lady and several White House aides, including new cases revealed yesterday.

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

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## **AMA Webinar Series**

# **COVID-19 Vaccine Development: What Physicians Need to Know**



This vital series addresses the science, evidence and process of vaccine development, regulatory review and what physicians need to know. Hosted by AMA physician leaders, each installment aims to gain fact-based insights from the nation's highest-ranking subject matter experts working to protect the health of the public.

**Episode 1:** FDA Review Process for COVID-19 Vaccine Candidates

**Wed., Oct. 7, 2 p.m. CT/3 p.m. ET**

**Host:** AMA President, Susan R. Bailey, MD

**Guest:** Peter Marks, MD, PhD, Director of the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

Join Dr. Bailey and Dr. Marks for a comprehensive overview of the FDA vaccine review process, including what the process looks like for COVID-19 vaccine candidates and the differences between the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) and Biologic License Application (BLA) pathways.

[Register Now!](#)

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## **CDC says coronavirus can be spread through airborne transmission**



Two weeks after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention took down a statement about airborne transmission of the coronavirus, the agency on Monday replaced it with language citing new evidence that the virus can spread beyond six feet indoors.

"These transmissions occurred within enclosed spaces that had inadequate ventilation," the new guidance said. "Sometimes the infected person was breathing heavily, for example while singing or exercising."

[Read the article from the New York Times](#)

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## **Association Advocacy Spurs New Grant Program for Medical Practices**



Due in part to the COVID-19 Impact Survey and the advocacy efforts of our Association, Governor Ivey has awarded \$35 million in Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) funds to establish the Alabama Health Care and Emergency Response Providers grant program. The grants will support providers who have been financially impacted 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 for Alabama health care and emergency response providers that meet eligibility requirements. The application period for the Alabama Health Care and Emergency Response Provider grant program opened yesterday and will continue until **noon on October 16, 2020.**

[Coronavirus Relief Fund Information](#)

[Provider Grant Program Overview and Eligibility](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

For questions, please contact the Coronavirus Relief Funds Office at 334-242-7063 or [submissions@finance.alabama.gov](mailto:submissions@finance.alabama.gov) (Please include 'Provider Grant Program' in the subject line).

Submit your application

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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 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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## WHAT WE'RE READING

- [Why a Negative Test Doesn't Rule Out COVID](#)
- [8 coronavirus tips that doctors wish patients would follow](#)
- [Researchers Examine Neurological Symptoms In Patients Hospitalized With COVID-19](#)
- [Medical equipment manufacturer Global Resources International building plant in Dothan](#)
- [Moderna vaccine trial contractors fail to enroll enough minorities, prompting slowdown](#)

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The banner features a teal background. On the left, the Medical Association of the State of Alabama logo is at the top, followed by "COVID-19" in red and "EARN FREE CME" in large yellow letters. Below that, 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 and a window with a view of a city.



If you no longer wish to receive these emails, please [\*\*unsubscribe\*\*](#)

