



## Moderna Vaccine Distribution Site Updates



Doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine have arrived in Alabama and more are expected over the next couple of days now that the vaccine has been approved for Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the Food and Drug Administration. Alabama's initial allocation is 84,300 doses. This allocation will be intended for distribution among physicians and other healthcare workers. **We will have more details regarding the Moderna vaccine on Monday, December 28th.**

**The Pfizer vaccine is now available for health care workers and we have updated the appointment information in our toolkit.** Please visit page 5 in the toolkit for more details.

The Medical Association developed the COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Toolkit to help you answer essential questions that you might have about the COVID-19 vaccines.

The information in this toolkit includes: comparisons of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, Pfizer vaccine prioritization for office-based physicians, vaccine allocation, storage, billing/coding, provider enrollment instructions, frequently asked questions, sample social media posts, and more.

[Download the Toolkit here](#)



## **Stimulus Bill Contains Several Provisions Related to Medicine**



Late yesterday, Congress passed an extensive spending package that funds the federal government through FY 2021, provides a new round of COVID relief and economic stimulus, and imposes new restrictions on surprise medical billing.

As the topline summary shows, the package also:

- Delays Medicare sequester payment reductions through March 31, 2021
- Provides a one-time, one-year 3.75% increase in the Medicare physician fee schedule
- Provides new mental health parity requirement
- Expands access to mental health telehealth

The [surprise billing provisions](#) include several important improvements such as:

- Clarification that an upfront, initial payment or notice of denial is required from the plan to the physician;
- An increase in the time for a physician to pursue independent dispute resolution (IDR), from 2 to 4 days;
- Prohibition against considering public program rates like Medicare, Medicaid, and Tricare during the IDR process; and
- Elimination of problematic timely billing provisions.

The provisions related to Medicare physician payment mean the budget neutrality adjustment is significantly reduced. Based on the specialty impact table in the final rule, the AMA estimates that most specialties will now see either a neutral or positive change in total Medicare payments in 2021. Impacts for particular medical practices will depend on both physician specialty and their particular mix of services, as well as whether or not they would have billed G2211 if it were not delayed.

[You can find a table estimating the impact of the Medicare payment changes here.](#)

The Medical Association has worked closely with the AMA and our Congressional Delegation on these issues throughout the year and we look forward to continuing that work in 2021. We will provide more detailed information about the provisions of the stimulus bill as that information becomes available.

[View a topline Summary here](#)

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## WHAT WE'RE READING

- [Physician Education on COVID-19 Treatments, Vaccines and more](#)
  - [Scarce COVID-19 vaccine currently limited to people in the very high-risk category](#)
  - [Almost 5,000 COVID-19 cases added in Alabama; hospitalizations at record high](#)
  - [Mask Up Alabama Video Contest](#)
  - [Older Adults May Be More Resilient During Pandemic Than Younger People](#)
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PPE is still available!

- Direct Shipping now available
- Free shipping on orders over \$500
- Nitrile gloves now in stock

[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.

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MEDICAL ASSOCIATION  
OF THE STATE OF ALABAMA

**COVID-19**

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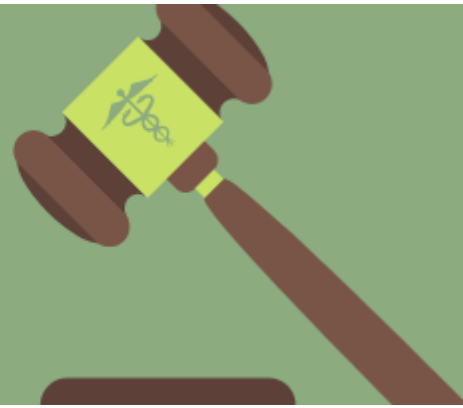
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