



## Fall Issue of Alabama Medicine Magazine now available online



The fall issue of Alabama Medicine Magazine is now available to view online.  
Our cover story is an exclusive interview with State Health Officer Dr. Scott Harris.

"When your citizens don't trust your government, they are less likely to respond to appeals for protective measures that seem to be limiting individual liberties. The current political drama has reflected the whole partisan state of politics that we have in America right now and that has made it difficult to get our message out. Americans are really divided on every issue and coronavirus is just an example of that."

[Read the entire interview here](#)

# Alabama hits new record for virus hospitalizations



On Monday, Alabama set a record of more than 2,000 COVID-19 patients in state hospitals as some facilities began to postpone non-emergency procedures amid staff shortages.

There were 2,079 patients in state hospitals with COVID-19 — the highest number since the pandemic began.

The statewide mask mandate expires Dec. 11, but Governor Kay Ivey could extend the mandate for additional weeks as she has done in the past. The Medical Association and other organizations have encouraged Ivey to extend the order.

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

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**Are you or a family member struggling with addiction or in need of support?**



# 24/7 Helpline

## 844-307-1760

Every call, live chat, and email is answered by a person in recovery at Recovery Organization of Support Specialists (ROSS).

Do you prefer to chat? Live chat is available through their [website](#). If you'd rather send them an email, you can message them below.

**Addiction is a disease, not a moral failing.**

All services are confidential and free, made possible through funding from [ADMH](#) and [SAMHSA](#).

[Send them an email here](#)

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JOIN OR RENEW BY DECEMBER 31, 2020



**G I V E A W A Y !**



WIN A **FREE TWO NIGHT STAY AT THE  
BATTLE HOUSE IN MOBILE**

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**ADPH in need of  
COVID-19 vaccine providers**





ADPH is in the process of determining how the COVID-19 vaccine will be distributed to physician practices for administration to patients once the vaccine is available to the general public. Physicians who are interested in administering vaccines to their patients are encouraged to sign up through ImmPRINT (see further instructions below).

While there are many unknown variables, here is what we know about vaccine disbursement so far. The first round of available vaccines will be from Pfizer and are expected to be released to approximately fifteen early shipment sites in Alabama in mid to late December. However, the ultra-cold storage requirement and 975 dose order minimum will make things difficult for individual physician practices to store this vaccine. **We should have more information regarding the Pfizer vaccine on Monday, December 14th and will send out an email alert as soon as we have more concrete information.**

It is expected that the Moderna vaccine could receive FDA approval one to two weeks following the release of the Pfizer vaccine. Moderna's vaccine can be stored in a regular freezer and can be ordered in increments of 100 doses. Because of the reduced cold storage requirement and smaller minimum dose order, it is anticipated that this vaccine will be available to physicians for administration to their patients.

Physicians must be enrolled in ImmPRINT to order the vaccine. We encourage you to enroll to help as Alabama's vaccine supply increases over the next several weeks.

1. Enroll in the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) statewide vaccine registry ImmPRINT. \*If you are already an ImmPRINT provider, please do not re-enroll, but you must log-in to the system and complete the COVID-19 provider agreement and profile.
2. All information on the provider profile and agreement is federally required for enrollment as a COVID-19 vaccine provider. DO NOT leave any fields blank. Questions concerning enrollment and provider profiles should be directed here.
3. The provider agreement and profile will be reviewed and approved by ADPH. Providers will be notified once the review is complete and enrollment as a COVID-19 vaccine provider has been approved.
4. Physicians who are approved as a vaccine provider will be notified when they can begin to place orders for vaccines.

**ImmPRINT COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Enrollment Overview**

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## **NEW E/M coding resource**

# MAJOR CHANGES COMING TO 2021 E/M CODING!

[Click here for more information.](#)



Considerable changes are being made to Medicare outpatient evaluation and management (E/M) codes. The transition will take effect on January 1, 2021 and will likely affect physicians across all specialties.

The changes are currently restricted to new and established outpatient visits (CPT codes 99202-99205, 99211-99215) and will impact everyone who assigns codes, manages patient information, or pays claims including physicians, health information managers, coders, payers, health systems, and hospitals.

What can you do to prepare?

- Look over our [NEW "cheatsheet"](#) based on presentations by Dr. Weida and Kim Huey
- Watch our E/M Coding Changes for 2021 CME [webinars](#) hosted by Dr. Thomas Weida and Kim Huey (Free for Members).

[See more resources](#)

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## When will physicians be able to get vaccinated?



Physicians, their staff, and other healthcare workers are in the first tier of persons scheduled to receive the vaccine. However, because of the limited initial supply, the doses of the vaccine will go to those (in the first tier) who are at higher risk of infection. The Medical Association will continue to work with the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) to develop a plan to ensure early availability of the COVID-19 vaccine to physicians and their staff.

It is expected that Alabama will receive a weekly supply of additional doses. Therefore, physicians who did not get the initial vaccine will have the opportunity to get vaccinated soon thereafter.

We will provide updates to our members as additional information becomes available. If you have any questions, please contact Mark Jackson at (334) 954-2500 or via his email below.

[Email Mark here](#)

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## WHAT WE'RE READING

- [2020 AMASA Medical Student Scholarship Award Winners](#)
  - [CMS and OIG Issue Historic Revisions to the Federal Anti-Kickback Statute and Stark Law](#)
  - [California Attorney General Xavier Becerra Chosen to Head HHS](#)
  - [7 things doctors wish patients knew about holiday gatherings this year](#)
  - [With vaccines around corner, don't give in to COVID-19 fatigue](#)
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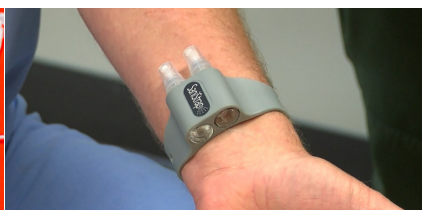


## Need PPE?

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.

[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.](#)



**COVID-19**

# EARN FREE CME

FIND MORE INFORMATION ON COURSES HERE



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

