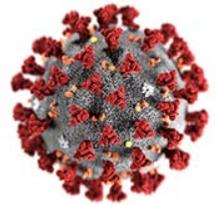




COVID-19 Statewide Hospital Huddle Summary Tuesday, May 26, 2020



Tom Bell shared his wishes that participants had a safe and meaningful Memorial Day weekend. He also expressed his appreciation for everything hospital staff are doing as they take care of those in their community.

COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Update – Ron Marshall

Daily Status, Future Predictions – Kansas has 9,218 confirmed COVID cases, with 800 hospitalizations. There have been 188 deaths due to COVID. Eighty-eight of the 105 Kansas counties have confirmed COVID cases. See the [KDHE Latest Public Update](#) for additional information. Kansas has been increasing the testing capacity, which is contributing to the increase in the number of cases, 2.4% of the Kansas population have been tested, and a new goal of testing has been set at 4%. Twenty-nine labs in Kansas are capable of completing COVID testing. Any lab that is capable of doing COVID testing and are willing to do so for potential patients outside of their facility should let KDHE know.

PPE Cache – KDHE announced they are in good shape for gowns, gloves and N-95 masks. They are shipping PPE items to the county emergency manager as requested. There may be a slight delay in distribution as they are consolidating warehouses.

Batelle – The anticipated turnaround time for decontamination of 48 hours has been extended to 4-5 days.

Data Collection – KHA continues to work with KDHE on streamlining and consolidating data reporting among EMResource, NHSN and Teletracking. The team members for the group have been identified, and dates have been offered for the first conference call this week. KHA is appreciative for hospitals continuing to input data into multiple sources until the situation can be corrected.

Remdesivir Distribution – Karen Braman

The Kansas plan for remdesivir distribution, as recommended by the Kansas Remdesivir Distribution Task Force to KDHE, was reviewed with participants. The Task Force met on May 20 and updated the interim guidance to develop the final guidance that is attached to the 5-26-20 daily update.

State/Governor Updates – Chad Austin

Hospital Assessment Program – KHA was able to work with Senate and House leadership to include the language, which allows the assessment rate to go up to 3 percent, rather than requiring it to be 3 percent into the [conference committee report for House Bill 2246](#). It passed the Senate 37 to 2 and the Kansas House 112-2. This legislation will now head to the governor for consideration.

Provider Liability Protections for COVID and Non-COVID Related Services – As for the health care provider liability and telemedicine language, these policies were included in the [conference committee report for Senate Substitute for House Bill 2054](#). The health care provider immunity language provides immunity from civil liability for damages, administrative fines, or penalties for acts, omissions, health care decisions or the rendering of or the failure to render health care services including services that are altered, delayed or

withheld, as a direct response to any COVID-19 state of disaster emergency under the Kansas Emergency Management Act.

Executive Orders – The telemedicine language extends provisions of the Governor’s EO 20-08 through Jan. 26, 2021, continuing the provisions until the next legislative session even after the Governor’s executive order expires. It also allows hospitals to exceed their number of licensed beds to address COVID-19 without seeking licensure of the new beds or, in the case of a Critical Access Hospital, jeopardizing their CAH status for exceeding the 25-bed limit.

The CCR for 2054 includes a number of other provisions related to the Governor’s powers during an emergency, including a requirement for legislative approval of executive orders closing businesses by the State Finance Council and control of the distribution of federal funds granted to the state for COVID-19 relief from the Governor to the Legislative Coordinating Council. The Kansas Senate passed this legislation 27 to 11 and the Kansas House 76 to 34.

Finance and Reimbursement Updates – Tish Hollingsworth

HHS Provides \$225 Million for COVID-19 Testing in Rural Communities

Last week, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) provided \$225 million to Rural Health Clinics for COVID-19 testing to over 4,500 RHCs across the country. This funding is through the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act (PPHCEA), also known as the COVID-19 3.5 package, that was signed into law on April 24. The funding amounts to nearly \$50,000 per clinic site and is intended to support COVID-19 testing efforts and expand access to testing in rural communities. According to [information on the HRSA website](#), there were 174 RHCs in Kansas that received funding for a total amount of \$8,606,287.

HRSA will also award \$500,000 to support technical assistance efforts to the RHCs as they expand testing capabilities. Additional information regarding the funding streams under PPHCEA will be provided when available.

COVID-19: Payment for Diagnostic Laboratory Tests

Earlier this year, CMS took action to ensure America’s patients, health care facilities, and clinical laboratories were prepared to respond to the 2019-Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). To help increase testing and track new cases, CMS developed two HCPCS codes that laboratories can use to bill for certain COVID-19 diagnostic tests. Click [here](#) for an updated MLN Connects article on billing guidance from CMS.

KHA Webinar Series for Finance and Reimbursement on the Receipt of COVID-19 Funding

KHA hosted a Noon Briefing on May 20 when King & Spalding, a leading health law firm from Washington, DC, provided an overview of the terms and conditions for receipt of the CARES Act Funds and considerations for the compliance for the receipt of those funds. A [recording of the webinar](#) is available.

A second webinar is scheduled for Thursday, May 28 at noon, and will include a discussion of the potential Medicare Cost Report implications and the importance tracking costs for the receipt of the CARES Act Funds. This webinar will include presentations by Tom Bruce, J5 Medicare Audit and Reimbursement Director with WPS, and Ralph Llewellyn, a Partner with Eide Bailly, LLP. Registration is still open for the May 28 webinar. You may [register for this program online](#). The [brochure for this program](#) is also online and attached to the 5-29-20 daily update.

Summary of Funding Opportunities for Hospitals

KHA has developed a document outlining the various funding resources available to hospitals during the COVID-19 crisis. We hope this document will be a resource for you and your staff in discussions with your hospital boards and others to summarize the funding sources distributed to hospitals and other health care providers. This document as well as more detailed information regarding the various funding resources and other important information are available on the KHA COVID-19 Funding Resources for Hospitals [web page](#).

Updated CARES Act Provider Relief Fund FAQs

The Department of Health and Human Services continues to make updates to their FAQs on the Provider Relief Funds. Click [here](#) to review the FAQ document which includes updates as of May 20.

Getting Needed PPE to Kansas Hospitals – Cindy Samuelson/Dennis George

KHA and APS have joined up with Project C.U.R.E., Angel Flight and other partners to get needed PPE to Kansas hospitals. In this time of crisis, Project C.U.R.E. is making their resources available to hospitals and first responders. They are donating all of their masks, gloves, PPE and other items needed to fight COVID-19 and resume non-COVID-19 care. A [video](#) highlighting the work of this program is available. If your hospital is in need of PPE, please complete [this online form](#), and Dennis George or Chris Saiya will be in touch with you to see what items we can secure, when we might be able to get them and how they will be transported to your hospital. We will do our best to get our members what they need, when they need it, but we cannot guarantee access to everything all the time. Our team will review manufacturers of the items we receive to make sure they are ensuring quality prior to sending PPE to your facility. If you have any questions, contact [Dennis George](#) or [Chris Saiya](#).

Questions – Members

Q1: Have the cases in Kansas hit the peak?

A1: We believe the current phase in the US and Kansas has hit the peak. There will be increased scrutiny on the number of cases due to Memorial Day activities. The media reported a number of large gatherings over the holiday weekend at the Lake of the Ozarks with people not following social distancing recommendations. [KDHE recommends self quarantine for Kansans who traveled to Lake of the Ozarks](#). From discussions this weekend, there is concern we may see a spike in cases due to the number of KC area, NE and SE Kansans that typically travel to that area. A second phase of COVID cases is expected in the fall.

Q2: The local health department is telling the hospital they are having difficulty getting results of tests through EpiTrax. Results are taking approximately 10 days to 2 weeks. Have you heard that from other places across the state? Collection is being done at the hospital and samples are sent to a reference lab for analysis. The reference lab gives the hospital results within 24 hours. The health department receives the results from the state through EpiTrax, which is where the delay lies.

A2: The state lab encourages hospitals to get results through secured email. KDHE Epi has been contacted and they believe the problem might be with the reference labs not reporting to the State. KHA will work with KDHE to research the situation and circle back with members.

Q3: We have heard that KDADS would issue guidance about plans for adopting the CDC recommendations for reopening of nursing homes. When should we expect that?

A3: We have not heard a definitive date on when that will be distributed. We hope it will be this week. We will share any information we receive as soon as we get it

Q4: Can you clarify; did you say that the state has PPE, including gowns available?

A4: Yes, state has a “really good stock” of PPE for COVID activities. You can request those through your county emergency manager.

Next Hospital Huddle Call

Please continue to share your COVID-19 questions with us by emailing [Cindy Samuelson](#). Our next call will be Tuesday, June 2 at 10:00 a.m.

