April 21, 2020

The MMS will continue to monitor developments related to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and the response by state and federal agencies. For current information, including updates from the NEJM, visit the dedicated page on the MMS website: massmed.org/covid-19.

As a reminder, physicians may continue to email questions to the MMS for assistance. For information on developments related to the COVID-19 response and resources available from the state and federal agencies, send questions to dph@mms.org. For assistance with practice management and sustainability, telemedicine, and payer relations, send questions to pprc@mms.org.

Public Health

DPH releases daily report with data on PPE, testing, and other areas

The Commonwealth released an enhanced, comprehensive, and detailed COVID-19 data report. The new daily dashboard includes information on case rates, testing, and breakdowns by age, sex, race and ethnicity, and geography of confirmed cases. The report also includes specific information on COVID-19 hospital census information, long-term care facilities, and data on personal protective equipment (PPE) distribution.

Massachusetts COVID-19 response dashboard
Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) has developed and maintains a public-facing COVID-19 ArcGIS Online Dashboard, available here. This dashboard is continuously updated and captures information about current COVID-19 case counts, cases by age, cases by county, hospital status, hospital bed status, and death data. Users should refresh the dashboard on a daily basis as enhancements are continuously being added.

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**Practice Management**

**CMS issues recommendations to re-open health care systems in areas with low COVID-19 incidence**

As we continue to face the unprecedented public health emergency from the COVID-19 pandemic, the tide is turning and some areas throughout the country are seeing a decline in cases. As states and localities begin to stabilize, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has issued guidance on providing essential, non-COVID-19 care to patients without symptoms of COVID-19 in regions with low and stable incidence of COVID-19. This is part of Phase 1 in the Trump Administration’s Guidelines for Opening Up America Again. The recommendations update earlier guidance provided by CMS on limiting non-essential surgeries and medical procedures.