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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.

Public Health

DPH revised return-to-work guidance for health care personnel

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) has posted revised Occupational Exposure and Return to Work Guidance for Healthcare Personnel. [Click here](#) to read the updated guidance.

Physician Wellness

Journal Watch: Managing personal and team stress during the COVID-19 pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought a world of unanticipated changes. While society endures social distancing and isolation, fears of illness, and uncertainty, health care workers endure the strain of scarce resources, proximity to infected patients, concerns about bringing infection home to family, and rapidly changing health care policies and

procedures. Such stressors can lead to insomnia, anxiety, and depression. For more, [click here](#).

Practice Management

Creating a resilient organization for health care workers during a crisis

Action steps taken by an organization before, during, and after a crisis will reduce psychosocial trauma and increase the likelihood your workforce will cope or even thrive. How physicians and other health care workers are supported during a time of acute stress impacts how they cope and whether they recover from the crisis, or, alternatively, whether they will adopt unhealthy coping mechanisms and show signs of stress injury (e.g., burnout, insomnia, dysphoria) or chronic stress illness (e.g., depression, anxiety, PTSD, substance abuse).

Effectively caring for the health care worker may decrease their risk of leaving practice or limiting their fulltime effort. Successful organizations will take a systems approach and focus on becoming a resilient organization prior to times of crises, rather than limiting their efforts to a focus on individual resilience or only attending to the well-being of health care workers after crises develop.

Furthermore, resilient organizations will need to rapidly reconfigure their well-being priorities to meet the biggest new drivers of stress in a crisis setting. Download the complete [Creating a Resilient Organization guide](#).

HHS telehealth guidance and information

The United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has a [website dedicated to telehealth](#), which provides information about the latest federal efforts to support and promote telehealth services. It was built by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), an agency of the HHS.

HHS extends Provider Relief Fund attestation deadlines

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has extended the deadline for health care providers to attest to receipt of payments from the Provider Relief Fund and accept the [terms and conditions](#). Providers will now have 45 days, increased from 30 days, from the date they receive a payment to attest and accept the terms and conditions or return the funds. For example, the deadline for providers who received payment on April 10, 2020, is extended to May 24 from May 9, 2020. With the extension, not returning the payment within 45 days of receipt of payment will be viewed as acceptance of the terms and conditions.

Visit hhs.gov/providerrelief for more information.

Video and resources: Updated Medicare coverage and payment of virtual services

[This video](#) will provide you with answers to common questions about the expanded Medicare telehealth services benefit under the 1135 waiver authority and the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act.

For more information about Rural Health Centers (RHCs) and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), visit the Medicare Learning Network (MLN) [site](#).

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) maintains a [list of services](#) that are normally furnished in-person that may be furnished via Medicare telehealth.

The most up-to-date information on coronavirus waivers and flexibilities can be [found here](#).

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