

The Montana Health Care Coalitions Newsletter is a publication of the Montana Hospital Association published on Thursdays.



Montana Hospital Association | November 3, 2022

## New & Noteworthy

### Upcoming Transition from TeleTracking to NHSN for HHS Data

In mid-December reporting of COVID-19 hospital data will transition from TeleTracking to the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN). Thursday, December 15, 2022 will be the first day of COVID-19 hospital data reporting in NHSN. This transition is **only** related to COVID-19 hospital data reporting, which is detailed in the [COVID-19 hospital data reporting guidance](#). More information on the transition is available on the [NHSN COVID-19 reporting transition website](#).

As part of the transition, the COVID-19 hospital data reporting module is now available in NHSN for **testing purposes only**. This testing phase is intended to help users gain familiarity with the module, add users to NHSN as needed, and set-up and test reporting. As a reminder, someone in your facility (likely in the infection prevention and control department), likely has access to NHSN. **Reporting of COVID-19 hospital data will continue through current reporting mechanisms - current availability of the NHSN module is for testing purposes only**. During the testing phase - Wednesday, November 2, 2022 through Wednesday, December 14, 2022 - the team will prioritize identifying any issues for submission of COVID-19 hospital data in order to address these prior to the December transition. Please feel free to share feedback with NHSN.

To access the COVID-19 module, log in to the **Patient Safety Component** of NHSN and select COVID-19 and Pathway Data Reporting in the left navigation bar.

Multiple trainings and demos are being scheduled for the coming weeks - please register on the [transition website](#). *Note: Please check the transition website regularly for additional trainings.*

Important notes on the transition:

- There are **no significant changes** to the questions or to the reporting cadence. The only minor change is that the NHSN orgID now serves as the facility identifier
- Reporting processes will remain the same
  - Hospitals will still be able to report individually (*See the overview steps for [individual facility reporting](#)*)
  - Hospital systems will still be able to report at an enterprise level (*See the overview steps in the [bulk upload guide](#), and upcoming Nov. 2 training for bulk uploaders*)
  - Jurisdictions will still be able to report on behalf of their facilities (*See the overview steps in the [bulk upload guide](#)*)
  - Third party vendors will still be able to report on behalf of facilities and/or jurisdictions (*See the overview steps in the [bulk upload guide](#)*). **This includes Juvare/EMResource.**
- Reporting capabilities for webform interface, CSV upload (for both individual facility and multiple facilities), and API will be available in NHSN
- Historical data submitted via TeleTracking will not be available in NHSN at this time, but may be available in the future
- Please follow guidance from your jurisdiction to ensure you are meeting any state, tribal, local, or territorial requirements

Please also view the [frequently asked questions on the transition](#). Helpdesk support is also available through [nhsn@cdc.gov](mailto:nhsn@cdc.gov).

As facilities begin to receive notifications from HHS regarding the transition that will be occurring on **December 15<sup>th</sup>** from TeleTracking to NHSN we wanted to provide some guidance for facilities that are using EMResource to update their data daily. Facilities will be able to continue to utilize the exact same process for updating data in EMResource as HHS transitions from TeleTracking to NHSN. All of the required elements will be in place for the data to transfer from EMResource to NHSN just as it has been doing to TeleTracking. Facilities are encouraged to develop processes for entering the information in NHSN if a day is missed or if weekends are not reported into EMResource.

If your facility has not done so yet, you are encouraged to review the recording of the Juvare API Kick Off webinar held on October 3 [here](#), the passcode is **9gb%m\*hn**. This API is intended to focus on the HHS required data elements and **ease some of the reporting burden for facilities**. By utilizing the API, facilities will be able to populate EMResource directly from their EHR. The amount of data that is able to be pulled will be dependent on the capabilities of the facility's EHR and the ability to map the fields from one platform to the other. Please email [casey.driscoll@mtha.org](mailto:casey.driscoll@mtha.org) if you have questions or would like additional information.

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## Changes in COVID-19 Rapid Antigen and PCR Testing Support

The following is an update on changes happening in the near future regarding the COVID-19 testing services offered by Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS).

Over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, DPHHS has provided COVID-19 rapid antigen test kits and polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing through the state Public Health Laboratory (SPHL) and our reference laboratories at no cost to many organizations across the state to support our pandemic response. The federal funding to support these testing activities is ending and near exhaustion. Therefore, DPHHS will cease the distribution of free rapid antigen test kits and free PCR testing to all organizations, with two exceptions (below), beginning on December 11, 2022. Organizations/facilities will need to directly purchase COVID-19 rapid antigen test kits from vendors. A list of selected vendors that provide rapid antigen test kits is attached. COVID-19 PCR testing will still be provided by the SPHL and MAKO reference laboratory but there will be a charge associated with the test (see below).

### **COVID-19 PCR testing:**

After December 11, 2022, the SPHL and MAKO can continue to provide COVID-19 PCR testing but there will be a charge associated with this work. The SPHL will charge the ordering provider for PCR testing and MAKO will bill patients' insurance. The MAKO laboratory requisition forms include the additional patient information that will need to be completed to bill patients' insurance. In addition to the SPHL and MAKO there are other clinical laboratories that can provide COVID-19 PCR testing.

### **Testing support to K-12 schools, early child care facilities, and local/Tribal public health departments:**

DPHHS does have federal funding from CDC (through June 30, 2023) specifically to support the free distribution of rapid antigen tests to K-12 schools and early child care facilities in coordination with local and tribal health departments. This federal funding allows schools, early childhood education facilities (ECE), daycares, and health departments to use this funding to support the detection and mitigation of COVID-19 in communities to maximize in-person learning days. To order testing supplies, use the following link: [https://PHEP.formstack.com/forms/covid\\_testing\\_supplies\\_request](https://PHEP.formstack.com/forms/covid_testing_supplies_request)

### **State health care facilities:**

State health care facilities can continue to order rapid antigen test kits from DPHHS as needed. To order testing supplies, use the following link: [https://PHEP.formstack.com/forms/covid\\_testing\\_supplies\\_request](https://PHEP.formstack.com/forms/covid_testing_supplies_request). These facilities can also continue to submit specimens for COVID-19 PCR testing to the SPHL or MAKO. These services will continue to be provided until the remaining and limited federal funding is exhausted. These facilities include the Montana State Hospital (Anaconda), the Veteran's Homes (Columbia Falls, Glendive, and Butte), the Montana Mental Health Nursing Care Center (Lewistown), the Intensive Behavior Center (Boulder), and the Montana Chemical Dependency Center (Butte).

### **Selected COVID-19 Testing Supply Vendors**

**Vendor Name:** Abbott

**Sales Representative:** Dorothy (Jan) Ahten, 425.417.7803, [Dorothy.Ahten@abbott.com](mailto:Dorothy.Ahten@abbott.com)

**Products Offered:**

- **Antigen:** BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Card PRO Kits, 40 tests in a kit
- **Antigen:** BinaxNOW OTC Self-Test 2-Test Kits, 6-12 kits in a case

- **Molecular:** ID Now COVID-19 Molecular Test Kit, 24 tests in a kit; ID Now Testing Instrument, ID Now Testing Reagents for Flu A/B, Strep A, and RSV

**Vendor Name: BD Veritor**

**Sales Representative:** Contact 1-800-638-8663 or email [VeritorCares@bd.com](mailto:VeritorCares@bd.com)

**Products Offered:**

- **Antigen:** BD Veritor At-Home COVID-19 Test Kit, 2 tests in a kit
- **Molecular:** BD Veritor Plus System, 30 tests per product; Products for detecting COVID-19, Flu A+B, Strep A, and RSV; BD Veritor Plus Analyzer (Instrument)

**Vendor Name: Access Bio**

**Sales Representative:** Complete the “Contact Us” information located at the following link and a sales representative will reach out to you: <https://accessbio.net/products/covid-19-detection-kits/carestart-covid-19-antigen#order>

**Products Offered:**

- **Antigen:** CareStart COVID-19 Antigen Kits, 20 tests in a kit (includes test devices, assay buffers, specimen collection swabs, and controls)
- **Antigen:** CareStart COVID-19 Antigen Home Test Kit; options for 1 test, 2 tests, 4 tests, or 20 tests in an order.
- **Molecular:** CareStart COVID-19 Mdx RT-PCR, 100 tests in a case; Thermo Fisher Applied Biosystems 7500/7500 Fast Real-Time PCR instrument

**Vendor Name: Quidel**

**Sales Representative:** Contact 1-800-874-1517. Select option 1 and then:

-Option 1 for antigen tests

-Option 2 for molecular tests

**Products Offered:**

- **Antigen:** Sofia SARS Antigen FIA, 25 tests in a kit; Transport Tubes (25 swabs)
- **Antigen:** QuickVue At-Home OTC COVID-19 Test Kit; options for 1 test, 2 tests, 10 tests, and 25 tests in an order.
- **Molecular:** Lyra Direct SARS-CoV-2 Assay, 96 tests in a kit; microwell and microfuge formats

**Additional Resources**

- Health Resources and Services Administration: FAQs for COVID-19 Claims Reimbursement to Health Care Providers and Facilities for Testing, Treatment and Vaccine Administration <https://www.hrsa.gov/provider-relief/about/covid-uninsured-claim/faq#>
- In Vitro Diagnostics EUAs – Antigen Diagnostic Tests for SARS-CoV-2 <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-emergency-use-2>

[authorizations-medical-devices/in-vitro-diagnostics-euas-antigen-diagnostic-tests-sars-cov-2#IndividualEUAs](https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/in-vitro-diagnostics-euas-antigen-diagnostic-tests-sars-cov-2#IndividualEUAs)

- In Vitro Diagnostics EUAs – Molecular Diagnostic Tests for SARS-CoV-2 <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-emergency-use-authorizations-medical-devices/in-vitro-diagnostics-euas-molecular-diagnostic-tests-sars-cov-2>

## Revised Guidance for Staff Vaccination Requirements

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released *QSO-23-02-ALL: Revised Guidance for Staff Vaccination Requirements*. CMS is revising its guidance and survey procedures for all provider types related to assessing and maintaining compliance with the staff vaccination regulatory requirements.

View the updated guidance [here](#).

## Pediatric Resources

As children's hospitals throughout the country begin to see increasing pediatric patient counts, the following resources may be of assistance for your planning.

- Our Deployment Readiness Guide may have some tips for missions that might support this. [MRC Deployment Readiness Resources - NACCHO](#)
- ASPR TRACIE Topic Collection - Pediatrics: [Pediatric/Children | ASPR TRACIE \(hhs.gov\)](#)
- National Child Traumatic Stress Network: [The National Child Traumatic Stress Network | \(nctsn.org\)](#)
- Pediatric Readiness for EMS: [Pediatric Readiness Resources Available to EMS Agencies - JEMS: EMS, Emergency Medical Services - Training, Paramedic, EMT News](#)
- Tips for parents when child in hospital: [When Your Child's in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit \(for Parents\) - Nemours KidsHealth](#)
- Sesame Street Health Emergencies: [Health Emergencies - Sesame Street in Communities - Sesame Street in Communities](#)

## COVID-19 Toolkit

The MT ICP/HAI Section has developed a COVID-19 Toolkit. This toolkit is for healthcare entities to utilize and modify as needed.

Tool Contents:

1. Exposed Staff/Resident/Patient Line List Template
2. Infected Staff/Resident/Patient Line List Template
3. HCP Exposure Risk Criteria Table
4. Resident Testing Guidance Algorithm
5. HCP Testing Guidance Algorithm

6. HC Exposure and Isolation Guidance by Staffing Mitigation Strategy
7. Daily Monitoring for Employer Template
8. Daily Monitoring for Employee Template

Due to the file type, we are unable to link directly to this tool. If you would like to receive the toolkit, please email [hppcoordinators@mtha.org](mailto:hppcoordinators@mtha.org) and we will send it to you via email.

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## Outbreaks of Nontuberculous Mycobacteria Infections Highlight Importance of Maintaining and Monitoring Dental Waterlines

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is issuing this Health Alert Network (HAN) Health Advisory to emphasize the importance of following existing recommendations for maintaining and monitoring dental waterlines. Multiple outbreaks of nontuberculous Mycobacteria (NTM) infections have occurred in children who received pulpotomies in pediatric dental clinics where the dental treatment water contained high levels of bacteria. CDC provides guidelines on infection control in dental settings which contain recommendations to treat dental unit waterlines and monitor water quality. Dental providers should be familiar with these recommendations on how to properly maintain and monitor their dental equipment to ensure that dental treatment water is safe for patient care.

View the full HAN message [here](#).

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## Data & Situational Awareness

### Update on Transition from TeleTracking to NHSN

Please see the update above. In mid-December reporting of COVID-19 hospital data will transition from TeleTracking to the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN). Facilities will be able to continue to utilize the exact same process for updating data in EMResource as HHS transitions from TeleTracking to NHSN. All of the required elements will be in place for the data to transfer from EMResource to NHSN just as it has been doing to TeleTracking. Facilities are encouraged to develop processes for entering the information in NHSN if a day is missed or if weekends are not reported into EMResource.

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## Upcoming Events

### Meetings

#### Health Care Coalition Executive Committee Meetings

Eastern Region - November 9, 2022, 0900 - 1300 at Glendive Medical Center - Glendive and via [Zoom](#)

Southern Region - November 11, 2022, 1000 - 1200 via [Zoom](#)

Central Region - November 17, 2022, 0930 - 1330 at Great Falls Clinic Hospital and via [Zoom](#). Working lunch sponsored by the CRHCC and travel expenses will be reimbursed. Please [RSVP](#) by end of day November 7<sup>th</sup> if you plan to attend in person.

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### Webinars

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#### RHC Emergency Preparedness Series

November 9 and 16, 1100 - 1200 each day

[View Flyer](#)

[Register](#)

#### PER 404: Logistics and Supply Chain Resilience in Disasters

November 7 - 10, 0800 - 1200 daily

Hosted by FEMA Region 8, Presented by the University of Tennessee

Registration Deadline: October 24

[Register](#)

#### CISA Region 8 Quarterly Threat Briefing

November 10, 1000 - 1100

Discussion of physical, cyber and foreign influence threats to critical infrastructure and supply chain security.

[Register](#)

#### Basic Disaster Life Support

Beginning November 11

[More Information and Registration](#)

#### Grand Rounds: Extremes of Age in Trauma

November 14, 1200 - 1300

[View Flyer](#)

[Access Event Via Teams](#)

## **Implementation and Use of Enhanced Barrier Precautions in Nursing Homes**

November 15, 1100 - 1200

[Register](#)

## **CISA Region 8 Securing Public Gatherings Webinar**

November 17, 1000 - 1200

[Register](#)

## **HHS IEA Weekly Monkeypox Briefing**

Thursdays, 12:00 MT

[Register](#)

## **First Responder Resilience TeleECHO Program**

Every other Monday, 14:00 - 15:00 MDT

[Register](#)

## **EOC Virtual Classes hosted by EMI**

View the full Course Catalog [here](#)

## **[Montana Health Network Course Catalog](#)**

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## In-Person Trainings

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### **2022 Big Sky EMS Education Symposium**

November 4 and 5, 0700 - 1830

Billings Hotel & Convention Center, Billings

Register by October 28 for Early Bird Rates: 2 days - \$147.90, 1 day - \$91.80

Registration after October 28: 2 days - \$168.30, 1 day - \$102.00

[View Agenda](#)

[Register](#)

### **CISA Security and Protection of Dams and Levees Workshop**

November 8-9

Kansas City, MO

Attendance is limited and registration is required.

[Register](#)

### **Preparedness 2022 Conference - Hosted by Yellowstone County LEPC**

November 10, 0930 - 1530

First Interstate Bank Operations Center, Billings



[View Flyer](#)

[View Agenda](#)

### **Assisting Individuals in Group and Individual Crisis Intervention**

(CISM Basic Group and Individual Peer Support)

November 15 - 17, 2022, 08:00 - 17:00

Glacier Conference Center, 1375 US 93, Kalispell

[View Flyer and Registration](#)

### **CISA Region 8 Securing Public Gatherings Webinar**

November 17, 1000 - 1200

[Register](#)

### **ICS 300**

November 29 - December 1

ExpoPark, Great Falls

Register by calling or emailing Glenna Violette [gviolette@cascadecountymt.gov](mailto:gviolette@cascadecountymt.gov) or 406-454-6900

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## Save the Dates

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### **K0428 Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Train-the-Trainer (Virtual)**

Multiple dates beginning December 2022

[View Flyer](#)

### **Colorado Wildland Fire & Incident Management Academy**

January 7 - 12

Colorado College, Colorado Springs

February 20 - 24

Marriott, Colorado Springs

[Register](#)

### **All Hazards Consortium – Virtual National Resilience Exchange Summit**

January 24-26, 2023, 1030-1600 daily

No cost

[Register](#)

### **Tribal Nations Training Week**

March 11 - 18, 2023

Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) in Anniston, AL

CDP training is completely funded for state, local, and tribal emergency responders to include travel, meals, and lodging.

[Register](#) through CDP

## ICS449 Train-the-Trainer for FEMA ICS Courses

March 27 - 31, 2023

Fort Harrison, instructed by TEEX

Registration coming soon

## L0212 Hazard Mitigation Assistance: Developing Quality Applications

May 1 - 5, 2023

Helena, MT

More Information Forthcoming

## | Engagement & Other News

### CISA Cyber Update

Click [here](#) to view the most recent CISA Cyber Update.

### No-Cost Cybersecurity Courses Available

Course Name: [Cybersecurity for Everyone](#)

Course Name: [Detecting and Responding to a Cyber Attack](#)

### Questions?

We are committed to supporting you and answering questions as quickly as possible. Please send any questions or comments to [hppcoordinators@mtha.org](mailto:hppcoordinators@mtha.org).

Visit the [Montana Regional Health Care Coalitions](#) website for additional information and resources.



### Share the Montana Coalitions Newsletter.

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