

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



Montana Hospital Association | December 14, 2022

Welcome to a special Wednesday Edition of the Health Care Coalition Newsletter

Today's edition will include important information and updates regarding the transition of COVID data from TeleTracking to NHSN that will occur on Thursday, December 15.

New & Noteworthy

Hospital Transition to NHSN on 12/15/22

On **Thursday, December 15th**, the COVID-19 hospital data collection will switch from HHS TeleTracking to the CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN).

Here are some key points:

- Starting on December 15, the TeleTracking portal will no longer be active for submitting data (with the exception of editing past submissions), and all data will be collected through NHSN.
 - If needed, editing past TeleTracking submissions must be done through TeleTracking, and must be completed before the end of the year.
- Facilities and states should NOT need to make any changes in their regular reporting processes prior to the December 15, 2022 transition date.
- There are many resources on the [transition webpage](#) to help you prepare for the transition, such as:
 - Newly scheduled twice-weekly webinar replays on submitting data and office hours for the month of December.

- Resources for entities [reporting on behalf of multiple facilities](#) (bulk uploaders), including webinar recordings, [bulk upload guides](#), and slides for prep & submitting data.
- Resources for hospitals who [report as individual facilities](#), including webinar recordings, and slides for prep & submitting data.
- [Frequently asked questions](#), including [FAQs on API](#).

Information will be shared with hospital Infection Preventionists during the weekly MT IP webinar from 2:00 - 3:00 on Thursday, December 15.

I use EMResource to update my COVID data, what do I need to do differently beginning December 15th?

The short answer is: NOTHING. **Please continue reporting to EMResource as you have been** and your data will be pushed to NHSN just has has been to TeleTracking.

Information is being shared with your Infection Preventionist and others within your organization regarding this transition. We encourage you to reach out to them to explain the current processes for data reporting and contingencies for when data is missed so that everyone can be on the same page for this transition.

How do I update data in NHSN?

Please see the attached [document](#) for instructions on directly reporting COVID-19 hospitalization data to NHSN.

I have questions, where do I go?

Visit the CDC's [FAQs on Transition](#) website for a general transition overview, reporting requirements, NHSN access and data submission guidance.

If you have questions related to NHSN reporting, contact:

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If you have questions related to reporting in EMResource, contact your Regional Health Care Coalition Coordinator or email hppcoordinators@mtha.org.

What does this have to do with the EMResource API I have been hearing about.

The transition to NHSN and the API implementation are two separate things that are happening simultaneously which is causing some confusion.

Facilities that are currently using EMResource to report COVID data should continue to do so. The API is a solution to reduce the amount of data that is manually entered on a daily basis.

The API will utilize JSON or XML to pull information directly from a facility's EHR to populate data fields in EMResource. While this will not completely eliminate the need to do some manual entry into EMResource the intent of this project is to ease the data reporting burden for facilities. We hosted a Kick-Off webinar on October 3 which provided an overview of the platform. The recording can be accessed [here](#) using the passcode **9gb%m*hn**.

Additionally, Here is the [Partner Interoperability Guide](#) which will provide a better idea of what the API interface entails and the steps to implementation. Once you have discussed with your IT staff whether you would like to pursue this option, please complete the [interest form](#), even if you have additional questions or are seeking approval for commitment.

| A Final Farewell

Don McGiboney, the Healthcare Preparedness Program Manager, is retiring and his last day will be Friday, December 16th. We wanted to take this final opportunity to express our deep gratitude for the wisdom, experience and consistent leadership that Don has provided to the Healthcare Preparedness Program and the Regional Health Care Coalitions.

Thank you Don, for all that you have done.

Questions?

We are committed to supporting you and answering questions as quickly as possible. Please send any questions or comments to hppcoordinators@mtha.org.

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



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