



Responding to COVID-19: **AHA Resource Guide**

(Fall 2020)

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the American Hospital Association (AHA) has been developing valuable tools and resources to help hospitals and health systems respond to the crisis. With concerns about new surges in COVID-19 and potential complications during a concurrent flu season, this resource aggregates select AHA resources to help your organization and caregivers meet the challenges.

The compendium's resources fall into the following categories:

- **Recovery, the return of elective care and capacity planning.**
- **Protecting and enabling health care workers.**
- **Caring for patients and communities.**
- **Addressing health care disparities.**
- **Telehealth and virtual care.**
- **Cybersecurity resources.**

In addition, you'll find links to online resource pages for the AHA's professional membership groups.



Recovery, the Return of Elective Care and Capacity Planning

[Resources to Reinforce That Hospitals are Safe and Ready to Care](#)

This suite of resources provides important content about urging patients not to delay needed care; talking points, a communications checklist and plan to assure the public that hospitals are ready, safe and open; and a podcast from AHA Chair Mindy Estes, M.D., urging patients not to avoid hospitals or emergency departments.

[COVID-19 Pathways to Recovery \(member-only content\)](#)

This compendium provides important questions and checklists for hospitals and health systems to consider as they resume services.

[COVID-19 Models: Forecasting the Pandemic's Spread and Planning for Recovery](#)

This report provides links to leading COVID-19 forecast models and provides an overview of each tool's capabilities and the resource's methodology documentation. These models can help organizations address COVID-19 case projections and capacity planning, community vulnerability and case mapping, and provide links to recovery calculators.

[Wear a Mask Campaign](#)

This campaign, developed jointly by the AHA, American Medical Association and the American Nurses Association, offers resources on proper mask wearing, care practices and advice from health leaders to better equip citizens with the information they need to keep themselves, their families and their communities safe.



Protecting and Enabling Health Care Workers

[Workforce Considerations in the Transition to Recovery](#)

This report addresses workforce strategies and redeploying health care workers, supporting the needs of front-line health care workers, general considerations for reopening facilities, resuming nonemergent surgeries, and contact tracing and testing.

[Leading Through Crisis: A Resource Compendium for Nurse Leaders](#)

These resources from the American Organization for Nursing Leadership cover topics like communicating effectively in a crisis, addressing moral distress, embracing mindfulness and self-compassion.

[TeamSTEPPS Video Training for the COVID-19 Crisis](#)

This free video training series on the AHA YouTube channel features TeamSTEPPS tools designed to optimize teamwork and communication.

[Acute Care Workforce Post-COVID Exposure Guide](#)

Adapted from New Jersey Hospital Association's Healthcare Provider COVID-19 Staffing Resource Toolkit, this resource provides a collection of resources pertaining to current acute care workforce needs post-COVID exposure.

[Caring for Our Health Care Heroes During COVID-19](#)

This AHA resource shares ways hospitals and health systems are helping to care for and support the health care workforce during the COVID-19 crisis. The resource focuses on three areas — mental health, food and housing — and features case examples from across the country. It also provides a list of national well-being programs and resources developed for health care workers.



Caring for Patients and Communities

[Everyday Innovations for the Management of COVID-19 Patients](#)

A nurse anesthetist shares commonsense, on-the-fly lessons learned on the front lines that not only are quick and easy, but could have a big impact on efficiently managing the care of these complex patients.

[Proactive Care Planning and Respecting the Patient and Family Choice](#)

This six-step guide provides clinical teams a clear plan that details what matters most to individual patients and honors the preferences of both the patient and family.

[Safety Protocols to Employ During the Pandemic](#)

Amy Compton-Phillips, M.D., chief clinical officer of Renton, Wash.-based Providence, discusses safety protocols put into place for patients, families, care providers and staff since the pandemic's onset.

COVID-19 Senior Care Compendium

This report provides resources that offer practical guidance and tools to create a safe environment and limit COVID-19 exposure to older adults.

COVID-19 Stress and Coping Resources

This webpage provides a compendium of stress and coping resources for the general public and front-line professionals dealing with COVID-19.



Addressing Health Care Disparities

Addressing Patients' Social Needs Can Help Reduce Health Inequity During COVID-19

This 4-page guide from the AHA's Value Initiative provides action steps and examples from hospitals and health systems for screening and documenting social needs, how to address unconscious bias, housing and food.

5 Actions to Promote Health Equity During the COVID-19 Pandemic

This resource highlights five areas where hospitals can make a difference in addressing health equity during the pandemic, including educating in ways that resonate with every patient, leveraging community partnerships, data collection strategies and more.

Innovative Solutions for Delivering Mental and Behavioral Health Care Services

Kimberly Dawn Wisdom, M.D., the AHA's Institute for Diversity and Health Equity board chairperson and senior vice president of community health and equity at Henry Ford Health System in Detroit, covers specific challenges minorities and diverse communities are experiencing and how to overcome them.



Telehealth and Virtual Care

Assess Your Digital Capabilities

The Digital Pulse helps hospitals and health systems assess their digital capabilities and plan for the future. It includes a self-assessment with three modules: behavioral health, COVID-19 and the digital front door.

Management Checklist for Teleworking Surge During the COVID-19 Response

This checklist is a quick reference for health care enterprise management to consider important factors in a teleworking strategy that minimize downtime and latency while supporting patient care, operational and IT security, and supply chain resilience.

Using Federal Funding to Expand Telehealth in Rural Communities

Under the Federal Communications Commission COVID-19 Telehealth Program, Clarke County Hospital in Osceola, Iowa, has expanded its existing services to include home monitoring. In this podcast, Brian Evans, CEO, explains how his organization has advanced virtual care during the crisis.



Cybersecurity Resources

[Incorporating Cyberrisk Management into Enterprise Risk Management](#)

As cybersecurity threats increase during the pandemic, so does the urgency to elevate cyberrisk management. Learn how to address these threats with an enterprise risk-management approach.

[How Ransomware Attacks on Hospitals Have Changed During the Pandemic](#)

Hospitals and health systems can improve their cyber defense and resilience by appreciating the new foes and risk levels they present by updating cybersecurity and enterprise risk-management practices to correlate to the elevated threat level.

COVID-19 Resource Pages for the AHA and its Professional Membership Groups

[AHA COVID-19 Resources page](#)

This home page provides the latest updates and resources for the AHA's COVID-19 response efforts.

[American Society for Health Care Engineering](#)

These resources cover such critical operations as air quality, safety and security, emergency preparedness and infection prevention.

[American Society for Health Care Human Resources Administration](#)

The site's resources provide the latest updates on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations on best practices for using existing personal protective equipment, workforce staffing, support options and more.

[American Society for Health Care Risk Management](#)

This site provides tools and resources to enhance pandemic response efforts,

[Association for Health Care Resource & Materials Management](#)

The site provides ongoing updates and the latest resources to help health care supply chain professionals respond to the pandemic.

[Association for the Health Care Environment](#)

The website provides tools and resources to help hospitals maintain the highest standards of cleanliness during the pandemic.

[Society for Health Care Strategy & Market Development](#)

This site provides helpful curated articles designed for those communicating or planning COVID-19 strategies, COVID-19 conversations with members, and other key tools and resources.