



CMS Snapshot

September 3-10, 2020

Delivered to you by the Partner Relations Group in the Office of Communications
All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, September 3 through 2pm Thursday, September 10, 2020.

News Releases

*September 3- [Trump Administration Announces \\$2 Billion Provider Relief Fund Nursing Home Incentive Payment Plans](#). Today, under the leadership of President Trump, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), is announcing the details of a \$2 billion Provider Relief Fund (PRF) performance-based incentive payment distribution to nursing homes. This distribution is the latest update in the previously announced \$5 billion in planned support to nursing homes grappling with the impact of COVID-19. Last week, HHS announced it had delivered an additional \$2.5 billion in payments to nursing homes to help with upfront COVID-19-related expenses for testing, staffing, and personal protective equipment (PPE) needs. Other resources are also being dedicated to support training, mentorship and safety improvements in nursing homes.

*September 4- [CMS Administrator Hosts Roundtable in Tampa on COVID-19](#). On Thursday, September 3, Seema Verma, Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and a member of the White House Coronavirus Task Force, convened a roundtable discussion with Tampa-area health care leaders to discuss the effect the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has had on long term care residents and vulnerable populations in Florida at BayCare Health System in Tampa, Florida.

*September 8- [HHS Awards \\$79 Million to Support Health Center Response to Emergencies](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), awarded over \$79 million in construction and other capital support for 165 HRSA-funded health centers impacted by Hurricanes Florence and Michael, Typhoon Mangkut, and Super Typhoon Yutu, and wildfires and earthquakes occurring in calendar year 2018, and tornadoes and floods occurring in calendar year 2019.

*September 9- [Trump Administration Takes Action to Expand Access to COVID-19 Vaccines](#). Today, under the leadership of President Trump, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Assistant Secretary for Health, issued guidance under the Public

Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (PREP Act) to expand access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines when they are made available. This guidance authorizes state-licensed pharmacists to order and administer, and state-licensed or registered pharmacy interns acting under the supervision of the qualified pharmacist to administer, COVID-19 vaccinations to persons ages 3 or older, subject to certain requirements.

Blogs

*September 3- [Life change? You may be eligible for health coverage for the rest of 2020](#). If you recently lost health coverage, got married, had a baby, or experienced another [life event](#), you may qualify for a [Special Enrollment Period](#) to enroll in or change Marketplace coverage for the rest of 2020.

*September 9- [Guard your card: How to protect your Medicare card](#). Protect yourself by protecting your Medicare card! The next Medicare Open Enrollment Period (October 15 – December 7) is coming fast, which means con artists may try to steal your identity and commit [Medicare fraud](#). Medicare has taken actions to make Medicare cards safer by replacing Social Security Numbers with more secure ID numbers. But even with those efforts, fraudsters may still try to take advantage of you during Open Enrollment.

*September 10- [Harnessing Technology to Address Loneliness and Social Isolation](#). Physical distancing has played a critical role in reducing the spread of COVID-19 and, particularly in hotspots and for people at increased risk of serious illness, it continues to save lives. However, physical distancing also is increasing risk of social isolation for many, particularly older adults and people with disabilities, which is a serious issue.

CMS has developed a [Virtual Toolkit](#) to help you stay informed on CMS and HHS materials available on the COVID-19. Please share these materials, bookmark the page, and check back often for the most up-to-date information. For more information, please email partnership@cms.hhs.gov