



ACTION NEEDED

Ventilator repair / refurbishment opportunity

Boise's Micron Technology contacted IHA with an offer to help hospitals that may have ventilators currently out-of-service that are in need of repair and/or refurbishment.

Bloom Energy has partnered with Stanford University to oversee a **refurbishment program that could bring hundreds of ventilators back into service**. Micron, with their clean technology facilities and workers, would like to do the same for Idaho hospitals – if there is a need. Micron will get their workers certified to do the repairs and get a third-party validation on the repairs before returning the equipment to hospitals.

If you have interest in participating, please click on this **short questionnaire** or email **Darryl-Lynn Oakes** with the number of units and types. IHA will share the contact information and number and types of ventilators with Micron so they can work with you.

Reimbursement & Policy

Federal funding for hospitals distributed

At this point, hospitals should have or will soon receive their portion of funding from the first tranche of the \$100 billion in funding to support healthcare providers authorized in the CARES Act. If you have not received funding for your hospital, by April 17th there should be an active place on the **CARES Act portal** where you can track the distribution of funds.

The CARES Act funding does not come without some strings. Each hospital will need to **agree to the terms and conditions** related to keeping the funds. In addition to standard list of dos and don'ts, which include not lobbying for gun control or using the funds for any project that entails the capture or procurement of chimpanzees obtained from the wild (really!), hospitals will have to agree/certify to:

- Having billed Medicare in 2019 and currently provide diagnosis and testing or caring for individuals with possible or actual cases of COVID-19;
- Payments being used to coronavirus related preparedness, treatment or loss of revenue due to the coronavirus outbreak;
- Not use funds to pay or reimburse expenses or losses that have been reimbursed from other sources;
- Submit reports to the Secretary of Health and Human Services as required / requested;
- Maintain appropriate cost and financial records in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations, and
- Not seek to collect out-of-network related out-of-pocket costs from patients.

The list is certainly more detailed, so read it closely. We will let you know as soon as we find out how future tranches of CARES Act funds can be accessed.

Testing and COVID-19 insurance coverage

On today's call with the White House, Vice President Pence told Governors that they would like to see the nation's testing capacity double and they will be announcing plans later this week on how the federal government will help states and healthcare facilities meet that goal. In the meantime, CMS put out additional guidance today on expanded coverage for essential COVID-19 diagnostic services.

Today's announcement implements the requirement for group health plans and group and individual health insurance to cover both diagnostic testing and certain related items and services provided during a medical visit with no cost sharing. This includes urgent care visits, emergency room visits, and in-person or telehealth visits to the doctor's office that result in an order for or administration of a COVID-19 test.

Covered COVID-19 tests include all FDA-authorized COVID-19 diagnostic tests, COVID-19 diagnostic tests that developers request authorization for on an emergency basis, and COVID-19 diagnostic tests developed in and authorized by states. It also ensures that COVID-19 antibody testing will be covered. Once broadly available, a COVID-19 antibody test could become a key element in fighting the pandemic by providing a more accurate measure of how many people have been infected and potentially enabling Americans to get back to work more quickly.

Resources & Equipment

FDA authorizes use of STERRAD sterilization for N95s

Over the weekend, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued an **Emergency Use Authorization** (EUA) to decontaminate N95 and N95-equivalent respirators for reuse by health care workers in hospital settings. The EUA was granted to Advanced Sterilization Products (ASP) for the STERRAD Sterilization Cycles, which uses vaporized hydrogen peroxide gas plasma sterilization.

The agency reports there are approximately 9,930 in 6,300 hospitals across the country.

The EUA stipulates that each respirator can only be decontaminated twice using the STERRAD Sterilization system. The FDA has provided a **fact sheet** and instructions for **facilities** and **personnel** regarding the use of the STERRAD Sterilization to decontaminate N95 respirators.

Virtual Meetings, Education & Updates

IHA Event and Meeting Update

Due to COVID-19, IHA has made the very difficult decision to cancel the Mid-Year Membership Meeting scheduled for June 25. For IHA Board members, we will plan to hold a virtual meeting on June 24. Please watch for details closer to the event.

The Western Regional Trustee Symposium originally scheduled for June 10-12 has been cancelled for those dates. A potential reschedule is being discussed and a determination is expected soon.

The Regional Leadership Council meetings scheduled for May will be converted to virtual one-hour meetings. Agendas and additional details will be sent in the coming days.

- North RLC ~ May 5th
- Southeast RLC ~ May 7th
- Southwest RLC ~ May 8th

Webinars on labor & delivery, masks

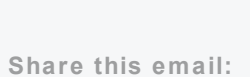
The National Emerging Special Pathogens Training and Education Center (NETEC) is providing specialized webinars to assist the healthcare workers. The center is a collaboration between Emory, the University of Nebraska Medical Center/Nebraska Medicine and Bellevue Hospital Center. All of these institutions have safely and successfully treated patients with Ebola and have worked diligently to share their knowledge with others.

Experts from the center are providing the following COVID-10 webinars free of charge:

- **Care of Labor and Delivery Patients** ~ Thursday, April 16 at 2p MT / 1p PAC
- **Healthcare Workers and Masks** ~ Friday, April 17 at 10a MT / 9a PAC

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