

**In This COVID-19 Update:**

- [Additional Distribution from Provider Relief Fund](#)
- [COVID-19 Emergency Declaration Blanket Waivers for ICFs/IID](#)
- [Update on Pending Requirement for National Healthcare Safety Network Reporting](#)
- [ASPR Webinar on Friday, April 24](#)

## **Additional Distribution of Provider Relief Funds**

Two weeks ago, we learned that skilled nursing would be included as part of the stimulus bill's (aka the CARES Act) \$100 billion Provider Relief Fund, when [HHS distributed the first \\$30 billion](#) from the fund and all skilled nursing facilities received 6.2% of their 2019 Part A and Part B Medicare payments. [Today, HHS announced an additional \\$40 billion in distributions](#), with checks going out as early as this Friday. Here is what we know so far.

1. SNFs are clearly part of a tranche of funds that HHS is using to pay providers based on their total revenue. It will distribute \$20 billion of the \$40 billion based on a percentage of providers total revenue, but will make some adjustment for Medicare revenue, that was recognized in the prior payment. We do not know the exact formula yet, but providers who have a high level of Medicaid and/or Medicare Advantage, will do proportionally better than those who do not.
2. HHS is also distributing \$10 billion to those in COVID-19 hotspots. This may be for hospitals only. We are verifying that and if we are not part of these funds, we will seek reimbursement for SNF and AL COVID hotspots in future funding.
3. HHS is also distributing \$10 billion to rural hospitals.

The additional news is that tomorrow Congress will likely add \$75 billion to this fund. That will replenish the fund to slightly over \$100 billion. We will work to continue to receive the funding you deserve as you fight the daily battles in your buildings. As we learn more about the formula utilized to distribute the \$20 billion, we will let you know.

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**COVID-19 Emergency Declaration Blanket Waivers  
for ICFs/IID**

Today, CMS released additional [blanket waivers](#) on staffing and training modifications in Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICFs/IID). More waivers are yet to come down the way for ICF/IID providers. Today's release includes:

- Staffing Flexibilities
- Suspension of Community Outings
- Suspend Mandatory Training Requirements
- Modification of Adult Training Programs and Active Treatment

Additional details can be found in the full [overview of the waivers](#).

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## Update on Pending Requirement for National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) Reporting

As announced in [CMS memo](#) earlier this week, CMS will be issuing a new requirement for nursing homes to report to CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network which is the nation's most widely used healthcare-associated infection tracking system. AHCA along with other stakeholders met with staff from CDC NHSN to seek more information about accessing NHSN and the reporting requirements. Key takeaways providers should be aware of are:

1. There will be an option for an expedited registration and credentialing process for new users of NHSN. It is estimated to take one hour via email communication to complete this process.
2. Reporting to NHSN will likely be required weekly.
3. There will be a probable grace period from enforcement to allow for rollout of this new requirement. CMS will determine the length of time of that grace period which is not known at this point.

The goal of reporting to NHSN is to:

- Augment case reporting to understand facility specific impact
- Identify resource needs and prioritize public health action

NHSN will be providing training and support such as office hours and a user support desk in the coming weeks. We will share more information as it becomes available from CDC NHSN and when CMS issues the rule for these requirements.

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## ASPR Webinar - Protecting Our Frontline Health Facilities from Evolving Security Threats during COVID-19

On Friday, April 24, at 1:00 pm EDT, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is partnering with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and InfraGardNCR on a webinar series to inform the private sector, state and local government first responders, and public healthcare professionals of potential increased threats to HPH facilities.

[Register for the webinar here](#). You must register in advance to attend the webinar. After you register, you'll receive connection details from GoToWebinar. Send any questions to [infragardncr@fbi.gov](mailto:infragardncr@fbi.gov).

Please email [COVID19@ahca.org](mailto:COVID19@ahca.org) for additional questions, or visit [ahcancal.org/coronavirus](http://ahcancal.org/coronavirus) for more information.

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