

Government Relations

Civic Engagement

National Voter Registration Day

We are 20 days away from October 6th when we will start receiving our ballots in the mail and begin to vote. To encourage voter registration within our staff and communities, AltaMed has once again partnered with other civic organizations nationwide to celebrate National Voter Registration Day on Tuesday, September 22nd. Throughout the next couple of days, we will be promoting National Voter Registration Day on AltaMed's social media channels.

Please encourage your staff, patients, friends and family to register to vote at www.myvotemyhealth.org/vote. Registering to vote is fast and easy and will take less than two minutes! A voting community is a health community.

Federal

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE COVID RELIEF PACKAGE: Though Congress returned last week from their August recess, negotiations for the next relief package remain at a standstill. One of the main sticking points continues to be the inclusion of state and local funding that Democrats are pushing for (and states, like California, are relying on), but still faces opposition by Republicans.

To reignite negotiations, yesterday, a bipartisan group of lawmakers called the "House Problem Solvers Caucus" released a \$1.5 trillion bipartisan proposal aimed at pushing Democratic leaders and White House officials to resume negotiations on a coronavirus relief economic relief package. Lawmakers involved described it as a final attempt to pry loose some kind of bipartisan relief deal before Congress leaves Washington for the election season, with the U.S. economy sputtering and millions still out of work. Package includes:

- \$25 billion for testing and contact tracing
- \$30 billion for healthcare provider support including but not limited to tele-health expansion
- \$45 billion forgiveness of Medicare loans to providers (not to reduce Medicare Trust Fund)
- Allow \$130 billion remaining from CARES Act for flexible use on documented past state & local covid expenses
- \$130 billion in new money for documented, future state & local covid expenses (through 2021)
- \$120.3 billion in new money for documented local general revenue shortfalls (through 2021)
- \$250 billion in new money for documented state general revenue shortfalls (through 2021)

(Details [here](#) and [here](#))

CENSUS: [Bipartisan Senate Push To Extend Census Begins Weeks Before Count Is Set To End](#)

A bipartisan group of senators is proposing a potential legislative solution to require the Census Bureau to continue tallying the country's residents through at least Oct. 31, as well as extend by four months the legal reporting deadlines for census results. A timeline that mirrors the originally revised schedule the bureau first proposed to Congress in April, when the Trump administration announced that because

of delays caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the bureau needed more time to complete the constitutionally mandated head count of every person living in the U.S. However, this new legislation's future is unclear. Even though the U.S. Census Bureau is now involved in two federal lawsuits over the administration's decision to cut short the timeline for counting and processing census results.

Local

Los Angeles County

- LA County has approved the second allocation of CARES Act Funding, which includes:
 - \$30 million to expand the Promotoras program in all communities of color that are hard-to-reach and have historically low participation in County services.
 - \$1 million for public service announcements and other educational materials shared on various ethnic media platforms
 - \$50 million for families and seniors who face food insecurity
 - \$10 million for additional support of small businesses that have been impacted due to County Health Officer orders
 - \$23.3 million for additional services for people experiencing homelessness to prevent infection.
 - \$14.9 million to bridge the digital divide for families with school-age children who do not have computers or Internet access.

Ferrer: No Reduction In LA County COVID-19 Restrictions Until End Of September

Los Angeles County will not authorize the reopening of any additional businesses until at least the end of the month to see the impact of the Labor Day holiday on the data, the county's public health director said Monday.

Orange County

Orange County Schools Get Green Light to Re-Open Next Tuesday

All Orange County schools will be allowed to reopen for in-class instruction next Tuesday, Orange County health chief Director Dr. Clayton Chau told the county's Board of Supervisors on Tuesday. So far, the county has approved **140** elementary schools to reopen through the state's waiver process, Chau said.

The county moved from the state's purple tier to the red tier last week, which allowed for churches, theaters, and other indoor operations to resume at limited capacity. Theaters, restaurants, museums, and churches are restricted to 25% capacity. Shopping centers can now open at 50% capacity, and gyms can operate at 10% capacity.

Infection Prevention Medical Director

- Amidst the current fires, key points to know about your HVAC system, if you do not want it to cool, you can just turn your fan on so that it can circulate the air. Please be sure to change your air filters more frequently since the air quality is bad outdoors.
- Dr. Brown is hoping that the weather changes a bit and that everyone stays safe and healthy.
- The lab process has changed to Fulgent, we will be looking at the data today and may reach out to the clinics for feedback.

- Until the laboratory is defaulted to Fulgent please be sure to select this in the order. Please click on “search” as this may not readily show up in “recent” if you have not selected Fulgent in the past.
- In regards to screening, Qualtrics has been going very well and has been able to speed up the times that staff are able to come into work.
- If any of the sites are having any further issues/difficulties regarding screening – please reach out to Dr. Brown.
- Screening, mask wearing/PPE, hand hygiene, physical distancing, and cleaning our high touch equipment are all layers of safety. If you are sitting next to a co-worker, less than 6 ft. apart for a prolonged period of time, the recommendation is to wear a face shield and a face mask. If you are going to see a patient, then you need to have eye protection in addition to the face mask.

Human Resources

1. **Important - Updated and New Policies:** In support of our continued efforts to create a safe work environment, we have been working diligently to update existing temporary policies and to create new policies that will guide us going forward. There are 6 updated policies and 2 new policies located on Townsquare.

Updated Policies

1. [Coronavirus Workforce Management Policy: HR-CON-030](#)
2. [Employee Safety Policy: EC-SAF-011](#)
3. [Paid Sick Leave \(PSL\) Policy: HR-BEN-026](#)
4. [Workers Compensation Policy: HR-BEN-007](#)
5. [COVID-19 Dress Code Policy: HR-CON-028](#)
6. [Personal Leave of Absence Policy: HR-BEN-018](#)

New Policies

1. [Employee Epidemic Screening and Testing Policy: HR-WEL-005](#)
2. [Face Masking Policy: HR-WEL-007](#)

As leaders, please become familiar with these policies and **schedule time to review them with your teams no later than [Friday, October 2](#)**. All employees will receive a similar communication informing them that they are required to acknowledge the policies in the Learning Management System. Employees must launch this training from their transcript and **complete this acknowledgment by [Friday, October 9](#)**. Should you have any questions, please reach out to your HR Business Partner. Thank you for all that you do to ensure our employees are continuing to work in a safe environment.