



April 16, 2020

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EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

April 21, 2020
Coronavirus ICD-10: CM Coding Applications
 Webinar

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 for more educational opportunities

State COVID-19 Relief Legislation Now Law, Includes Priorities to Protect Access to Care

On April 15, Governor Tony Evers signed into law Assembly Bill 1038 as [Wisconsin Act 185](#), legislation related to the state government response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The legislation, which received near unanimous support in both houses of the legislature, addresses several key issues facing the state's residents, hospitals, providers and patients.

The Legislative Fiscal Bureau has produced memos summarizing [provisions of the introduced bill](#) and the [Assembly Amendment](#) engrossed into Assembly Bill 1038 before passage and enactment.

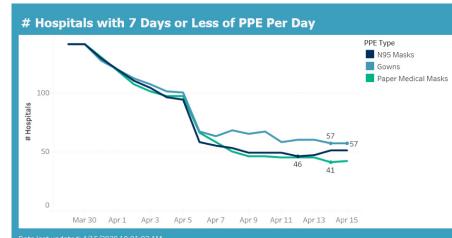
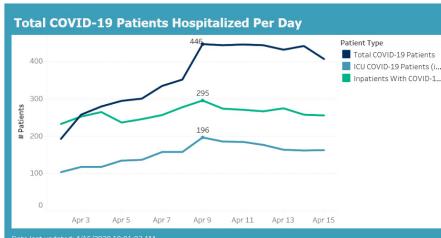
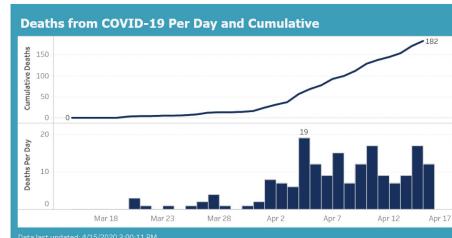
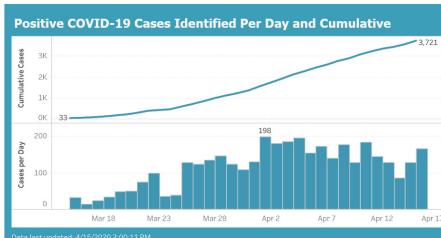
WHA has supported several elements of the proposed bill, which includes:

- Authorizing the legislature's Joint Finance Committee to allocate \$75 million to address the public health emergency, including aid to hospitals and health care providers.

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Popular WHA COVID-19 Dashboard Adds Important Trending Data

Already receiving positive feedback from policymakers and the public, the WHA Information Center's COVID-19 hospitalization dashboard was further enhanced April 15 with the addition of important trending data related to COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and PPE supplies for health care workers in Wisconsin's hospitals.



Since it was unveiled April 9, the [dashboard](#) has received national attention and numerous plaudits from state elected officials for the variety of information provided and the clarity of the display. Statistics include a daily snapshot of the number of

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(State COVID-19 Relief Legislation Now Law . . . continued from page 1)

- Temporarily suspending cost-sharing requirements for Medicaid enrollees, allowing the state's Medicaid program to receive an additional \$150 million per quarter in federal matching dollars.
- Creating a new [public health emergency dashboard](#), operated by the Wisconsin Hospital Association Information Center, to educate the public and lawmakers about relevant COVID-19 related data.



Gov. Tony Evers signs COVID-19 Response Legislation into law April 16, 2020

- Providing limited liability protections, as done by Democratic and Republican governors and legislatures in other states, for health care providers and professionals for certain acts or omissions taken during a state of emergency declared by the Governor under [Executive Order 72](#) or during the period 60 days following the expiration of the state emergency.
- Creating a presumption in Wisconsin's worker's compensation law for certain health care workers who are exposed to COVID-19 at work and test positive for COVID-19 that the condition was acquired on the job.

The bill also includes several provisions regarding health insurance coverage for COVID-19 and other conditions provided during or after the public health emergency.

- Prohibiting health plans from requiring out-of-pocket cost sharing for COVID-19 related testing until March 13, 2021.
- Requiring health insurers to reimburse out-of-network health care providers for certain services at 225% of the Medicare rate and requiring providers to accept the payment as payment in full. These provisions apply during a state of emergency declared by the Governor under Executive Order 72 and during the period 60 days following the expiration of the state emergency.

State Promotes WEAVR Website for Pandemic Staffing Resource

To help aid with health care staffing if necessary to help hospitals handle any COVID-19 pandemic surge, Governor Tony Evers recently highlighted a state volunteer registry program as a central repository for active and retired health care professionals to offer their help: [Wisconsin Emergency Assistance Volunteer Registry](#) (WEAVR). Managed by the state's Department of Health Services, WEAVR is a system for identifying, activating and deploying volunteers during disasters.

Anyone can volunteer with WEAVR, although emphasis is currently focused on licensed medical and health care volunteers. The site allows for secure, password-protected input of information, including the volunteer's preference on the types of service they are willing to provide, as well as willingness to travel. The WEAVR system alerts volunteers via email or text message when local or county health officials notify the state that extra staffing is needed for a particular area.



For more information related to the WEAVR program, visit the program's [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

WHA's Nadine Allen Tapped for Superior Quality Leadership Role



Nadine Allen

Nadine Allen, WHA quality director, has been appointed as enterprise-wide system director for the [Superior Health Quality Alliance](#). WHA is a founding member of Superior Health, a CMS-approved contractor for patient and community health care quality and safety work.

As a member of Superior Health's leadership team, Nadine will oversee and direct the selection and implementation of shared systems which include data collection, communications, internal and external learning platforms, and internal quality control.

SUPERIOR HEALTH
Quality Alliance

Hired by WHA in 2017, Allen has provided leadership for the Hospital Improvement and Innovation Network (HIIN) in Wisconsin and throughout the Great Lakes region.

"WHA is proud to share Nadine's skills and leadership with Superior Health, our new partners in health care quality and safety work," WHA Chief Quality Officer Beth Dibbert said.

(Popular WHA COVID-19 Dashboard Adds Important Trending Data . . . continued from page 1)

COVID-19 patients currently hospitalized, ICU bed availability, and supplies of important equipment such as ventilators, N95 respirators, gowns and surgical masks. The dashboard was created in collaboration with the state's Department of Health Services, with various data points updated daily.

By adding additional trending data displays, policymakers and the public can better assess Wisconsin's efforts to "flatten the curve" of the COVID-19 pandemic. Hospitals and public officials can also utilize the information as an aid in future planning.

AHA Partnering on App Linking PPE Donors with Potential Recipients

The American Hospital Association (AHA) is partnering with Microsoft, Kaiser Permanente, consulting firm Kearney, Merit Solutions and UPS to launch [Protecting People Everywhere](#), an app-powered initiative that matches individuals and organizations donating personal protective equipment (PPE) with local hospitals based on need. The HealthEquip app also will track PPE donations and manage shipping through UPS to hospitals.

The AHA is sharing the app with hospitals through its [100 Million Mask Challenge](#). Hospitals and donors can [register](#) their PPE needs and supplies.

"The hospital field is exploring all options to increase production and distribution of much needed PPE in order to best support our health care heroes across the country," AHA Executive Vice President and COO Michelle Hood said in a statement. "HealthEquip builds on the progress of the 100 Million Mask Challenge to turn this call to action into a valuable tool for hospitals and health systems on the ground."

Protect The Heroes – Public Fundraising Campaign for Hospitals

The American Hospital Association team has created a new public campaign to directly connect the public with their local hospital's COVID fundraising campaigns. This is a national effort to help get hospitals what they need during this crisis including, but not limited to, PPE and employee assistance. Please visit [protecttheheroes.org](#) to search for the local Wisconsin hospital to which you would like to donate. Donations go directly to the hospital that is selected via that hospital's Foundation.

1953 Annual Report of the Association

In 1953 the Wisconsin Hospital Association had a busy year. The Annual Report of the Association had some interesting things to read about. A few excerpts:

- WHA appointed an Insurance Committee to look into the rapidly increasing rates for malpractice insurance. (*Read more about this issue in a future article.*)
- A proposed organizational plan was recommended to the Women's Auxiliary of the WHA. (*Read more about auxilians and their contributions to WHA in a future article.*)
- The State Board of Health appointed an Advisory Council with a WHA representative to assist in the preparation of the Hospital Approval and Regulatory Act.
- WHA had 156 Institutional members and 89 individual members.
- Membership dues from hospitals were \$2,320.
- The payroll for WHA was \$1,800.
- Legislative priorities included the Hospital Regulatory and Approval Act (Chapter 330) which was passed in July 1953. After July 1954, all hospitals were required to obtain a certificate of approval.



Read the [1953 Annual Report](#) of WHA including a President's Report, Executive Secretary Report, Balance Sheet and Legislative Report to the Board.

Watch for articles on more annual reports in future "CELEBRATING 100 YEARS" as well as articles about WHA's past and current presidents, WHA's homes, CheckPoint, PricePoint, the formation of the WHA Information Center, Convention Fun Runs and train rides, the Southern Hospital Invitational Golf Tournament, WI Act 183, greetings from WHA past chairmen and much more.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

