



## COVID-19 Resources

Each Friday Virginia Health Catalyst shares the latest oral health-related COVID-19 resources. For additional information visit the Catalyst [COVID-19 resource page](#).

### Front Line Innovations Blog Series - Teledentistry During and After COVID-19

Last week Virginia Health Catalyst launched the [Front Line Innovations](#) blog series. The series serves as an opportunity to highlight ways oral health care has changed during COVID-19, and ways to provide care in a post-COVID-19 world. The first blog in the series was from Dr. McAllister Castelaz on the [benefits of minimally invasive dentistry](#).

This week's [blog](#) comes from Dr. Scott Wolpin at Eastern Shore Rural Health System. Dr. Wolpin is a leading voice for teledentistry and [shares in his blog](#) the process he and his team took to make teledentistry a reality, and how it has allowed them to reach patients even during COVID-19.

If you have an innovative way to improve patient care please contact [Lauren Sawyer](#) to showcase your work in an upcoming blog.

### ADA HPI Data Shows Dentists Reopening Though Challenges Remain

The American Dental Association's Health Policy Institute (ADA HPI) is conducting biweekly surveys to understand the impact COVID-19 is having on dental practices. Data from the most recent survey that spotlights the re-opening of dental practices across the country was shared in a [webinar](#) this week. Of note:

- Dental practices are returning to operations: The data from the week of May 4 shows a significant increase in the number of dental practices that are entirely operational, (from 3.4% the week of April 20 to 30% the week of May 4).
- Patient volume and collections remain low: In states like Virginia that have reopened dental practices patient volume is 28% of what it would be normally. This along with collections that are 20% lower than they normally would be means that while dental practices are beginning to see patients again, the revenue generated is still behind what it would be under normal circumstances.
- PPE is still in short supply: ADA HPI added a new question in their most recent data collection, asking providers about their PPE supply. While the return to work is a positive sign for the economic impact of COVID-19, concerns remain around PPE. 30% of survey respondents reported they have no N95/K95 masks.

In addition to the national results, ADA HPI now has state-specific data available. In the most recent survey, 62.2% of Virginia dentists said they were seeing patients though at a lower volume than normal. With this return to work, Virginia dentists are beginning to pay their staff again, 44.4% report paying their staff fully.

Find ADA HPI's past survey results and an interactive data table [here](#).

## Policy Resources

Congress is considering next steps for a phase four stimulus package. To ensure oral health is a priority, Virginia Health Catalyst, along with a broad consortium of state and national partners are advocating for three specific requests to ensure oral health needs are recognized as part of the response:

- An increase in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) by 12%
- An increase of the FMAP for Medicaid dental services by 5%
- Funding to state health departments and oral health programs to support oral health infrastructure

FMAP refers to how much the federal government pays to support state Medicaid programs – any increase frees up state funds. These requests, if included in the stimulus package, could have direct implications on states' ability to support Medicaid adult dental coverage – especially crucial for us in Virginia. Catalyst will continue congressional outreach for the next few weeks. To get involved with Catalyst's advocacy efforts, join the [Grassroots Advocacy Team](#).

Additional Policy Resources:

- [Integrating Care for Dually Eligible Individuals Matters Even More in the Face of COVID-19](#) (Centers for Health Care Strategies) - In this Q&A hear from the former director of the Medicare-Medicaid Coordination Office at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services on the implications of the current moment to influence the future landscape for integrating Medicare and Medicaid services.
- [Supports for Managed Care and Provider Networks During the COVID-19 Emergency Response](#) (Centers for Health Care Strategies) - In this blog post, senior vice president of Medicaid policy and vice president of quality and operations at ACAP discuss key considerations for state Medicaid agencies in meeting the needs of beneficiaries in the current pandemic environment.

*Copyright © 2020 Virginia Health Catalyst (formerly the Virginia Oral Health Coalition), All rights reserved.*

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.



