



November 3, 2020

Dear Friends,

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is contracting to produce [vaccine ancillary supply kits](#) in preparation for vaccine distribution.

- HHS published a [Frequently Asked Questions document](#) on vaccine allocation and distribution.
- HHS and the Department of Defense [established a \\$119 million contract with Hologic, Inc.](#) to increase domestic production of diagnostic COVID-19 tests.
- HHS issued a [clarification](#) that health care related expenses will not be netted against patient care loss revenue for providers that receive Provider Relief Fund payments.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration is offering [training and technical assistance](#) on mental and substance use disorder matters as they pertain to COVID-19.

The Centers for Disease Control and Preventions (CDC) issued an [order](#) for a phased approach for resumed passenger operations that will mitigate COVID-19 spread on cruise ships.

- A CDC [study](#) shows evidence that pregnant COVID-19 patients may be an increased risk for preterm birth.
- Additionally, another CDC [study](#) reported that severe cases of COVID-19 are more likely in pregnant women than nonpregnant women.

Boehringer Ingelheim announced a [Phase 2 clinical trial of a COVID-19 therapy](#) designed to reduce the need for ventilator support and improve recovery rate

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services created a [Nursing Home Resource Center](#) webpage with the latest updates, guidance, and data.

Until next time, this is your doctor's note.



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