October 22, 2020

AHCA's ESS: Daily Hospital Reporting Changes

Pursuant to Governor Ron DeSantis' Executive Order 20-52 and at the direction of State Surgeon General Rivkees regarding COVID-19, the Agency for Health Care Administration opened the event "COVID-19 Monitoring" in the Emergency Status System (ESS) to monitor hospital census, inventory, needs, and other related information statewide.

Reporting Update
Effective Wednesday, October 28, 2020, all Florida hospitals will be required to report hospital data directly to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) via TeleTracking™. HHS information will no longer be collected in the state ESS system for submission.

As the HHS hospital requirements have changed, the benefits of using ESS as the collection tool have diminished. By reporting directly to HHS, hospitals will be able to:

- Report certain data elements weekly rather than daily as outlined by HHS
- Correct previous data entries if needed
- Upload data on a previous day that was missed

To become a user in the TeleTracking™ portal:

- Respond to the validation email sent to your administrator. If you do not have the validation email please contact TeleTracking's Support team at (877) 570-6903.

Once you have been granted access to the TeleTracking™ portal:

- Visit https://teletracking.protect.hhs.gov and follow the specific instructions.
    - Registration is by email invitation only.
    - Each facility is allowed to have up to 4 users for both data entry and visual access to aggregated data in the platform.
    - Users will be validated by the platform.
    - TeleTracking's Support team is available to assist at (877) 570-6903.

The Agency will continue to submit data to HHS through Wednesday, October 28, 2020, as reported in ESS.

ESS Reporting
Because the Agency will no longer be collecting this data for Federal HHS reporting purposes the number of "add'l info" questions will be reduced from 103 to 21 on October 28th. ***Hospitals will still be required to report the remaining 21 ESS questions each day for State monitoring purposes.***

Please continue to report Current Bed Census and Available Beds for all licensed and acute care beds in your facility and to the Add'l Info tab **daily** by 10 AM ET until further notice.

- Informational items have been added within ESS for each question to provide additional guidance for reporting correctly.
    - Additional ESS Resources can be found on our COVID site: http://ahca.myflorida.com/COVID-19_Facilities.shtml#ESS
- All needs requests should be submitted to your local Emergency Operations Center.
    - https://www.floridadisaster.org/counties/

If needed, click the following link to access additional instructions for entering ESS facility data for events (see pages 1-4 of the document "How to Locate and Enter Event Information" under the Details column) http://ahca.myflorida.com/MCHQ/Emergency_Activities/index.shtml.

If you require additional assistance with ESS, please contact your AHCA licensing unit, Hospital & Outpatient Services Unit, at 850-412-4549.

The Agency for Health Care Administration is committed to better health care for all Floridians. The Agency administers Florida's Medicaid program, licenses and regulates more than 44,000 health care facilities and 53 health plans, and publishes health care data and statistics at www.FloridaHealthFinder.gov. Additional information about Agency initiatives is available via Facebook (AHCAFlorida), Twitter (@AHCA_FL) and YouTube (/AHCAFlorida).