

# HIPAA Privacy Rule: COVID-19

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has provided a bulletin to ensure you're aware of the ways that patient information may be shared in an outbreak of infectious disease or other emergency situation.

## Under the HIPAA Privacy Rule, you may:

1. Disclose protected health information, without the patient's consent, to treat your patients.
2. "Treatment" includes coordination or management of health care and related services by healthcare providers.
3. Disclose necessary protected health information to a public health authority, such as the CDC
4. Disclose to persons at risk of contracting or spreading the disease
5. Disclose to family, friends, and others involved in the patient's care
6. Disclose protected health information if there is an Imminent threat

In all cases of disclosure you must utilize the "Minimum Necessary Rule," which limits the disclosure to what is minimum necessary to accomplish the purpose.

## COVID-19 and Workplace Guidance

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) today published "Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19" to help companies respond in the event of coronavirus in the workplace. Please click on the link below:

[Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19](#)



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