

2021 Priorities

Alaska's hospitals and nursing homes went into the global pandemic with some of the fewest acute care, ICU, and nursing home beds per capita in the nation. We experienced widespread shortages in critical medical supplies, over 1,000 Alaskans hospitalized, hundreds of caregivers out on a daily basis, and hundreds of millions in financial impact.

Despite it all, we are still standing. We deployed surge plans, augmented critical infrastructure, administered over 600,000 COVID tests, are outperforming states for vaccinations, and have the safest nursing homes in the country. We continue to be there for Alaskans in their greatest time of need!

COVID-19 has showed us how important our workforce is to maintaining health care capacity. Workforce shortages during the pandemic have limited ICU bed availability, strained core hospital services, and stressed nursing home operations. Alaska's health care system needs access to a robust, culturally competent workforce.

ASHNHA Supports

Joining Multistate Nurse Licensure Compact through legislation

Administrative Efforts to Expedite Licensing for workforce, especially physicians

Effective Workforce Training programs in Alaska

Learn from COVID

Improve from COVID

The state and federal government moved quickly to relax regulations and allow flexibilities for delivering health care in the pandemic. Telehealth has been indispensable and especially important for behavioral health services. These flexibilities continue to be critical, and many should be made permanent.

ASHNHA Supports

Permanent Telehealth Policy Changes that expand providers, services, and platforms

Demonstration Projects for facilities to test innovative service and payment models

The pandemic is not over! Hospitals and nursing homes remain on the front lines in communities across Alaska to support vaccine efforts, be ready for case surges from variant COVID strains, and meet Alaskans' health care needs.

ASHNHA Supports

Extending the Public Health Emergency Declaration to maintain critical flexibilities

Predictable Medicaid Budget that does not reduce access, threaten our fragile health care system with uncertainty, and exacerbate Alaska's broken behavioral health continuum

Health Equity and Access through a renewed focus on social needs and disparities

Be There beyond COVID