

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 30, 2020 6:08 PM

**Subject:** US Senator Joe Manchin Newsletter - June 30, 2020



**June 30, 2020**

## **2020 CENSUS**

[Visit our 2020 Census page on our website.](#)

**The deadline to respond is October 31, 2020.**

If we don't respond to the Census, we will miss out on important federal funds that make our communities stronger. Every person in West Virginia that does not respond to the Census equates to \$20,000 lost in federal funds for West Virginia and our communities over the next ten years. If 100 people do not respond, that's \$2 MILLION lost in federal funds to West Virginia over the next ten years. We simply can't afford that. So please, Be Counted and respond to the census today by visiting:

[2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov)

or call **844-330-2020**.



**Information is updated daily**

**on: [manchin.senate.gov/coronavirus](https://manchin.senate.gov/coronavirus)**

## **WORKING FOR YOU**

**[MANCHIN URGES RESEARCH ON RISKS OF PFAS EXPOSURE AND CONTRACTING COVID-19](#)**

Washington, DC – U.S. Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) led 19 Senators in urging the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to conduct research on the potential effects of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) exposure and COVID-19 infection.

The Senators said in part, "We write to express our concern about the potential risks that the novel coronavirus or "COVID-19" may pose for people who have been exposed to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). As our country continue to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, we urge you and the leadership of agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to ensure that the connection between PFAS exposure and COVID-19 is

# BROADBAND

## [Take a Speed Test Here.](#)

The sad fact is that many places in West Virginia simply do not have access to reliable broadband and the lack of access affects West Virginians every day. Back in 2015, the FCC released a coverage map that stated 99.9% of Americans had wireless coverage. I knew then what I know now: That is just plain wrong.

That's why I'm asking all West Virginians to submit your internet speed-tests, so we can prove to the FCC that our broadband coverage is well below the stated coverage. So far, your efforts have helped the FCC acknowledge that our providers are overstating their coverage, but we must continue to show where and how widespread the lack of broadband coverage is in West Virginia.

## HOW MAY WE HELP YOU?

To request assistance from my case team, [click here](#).

As your U.S. Senator, I am proud to be your voice with government agencies during your time of need. My goal is for me and my staff to provide the best possible customer service for every West Virginian who contacts me needing assistance. While I have no direct jurisdiction in legal or administrative matters of any federal, state, or local agency, I welcome the opportunity to assist you in any way possible and to assure that full consideration is given to your case. See one of our recent success stories below:

Mr. Billy Connard of Hines,

thoroughly examined so that individuals in communities impacted by PFAS can take precautions that are guided by scientific evidence.”

### The Senators requested answers to the following questions:

Does the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) or any other institute within NIH have plans to fund research to assess the interaction of PFAS exposure and COVID-19 and the COVID-19 risks for people who have been exposed to PFAS?

Are ATSDR, CDC, NIH and other agencies within HHS capable of leveraging data already being collected on PFAS exposure via the Pease PFAS study, the National Multi-Site PFAS Study, ATSDR's PFAS Exposure Assessments or other ongoing studies within the agencies to examine the relationship between PFAS exposure and COVID-19? If so, are these agencies capable of conducting antibody or other serological tests on willing voluntary participants within the PFAS studies, in a way that is sensitive to patients' rights, to further examine the intersection between exposure to these chemicals and COVID-19? If so, we strongly urge CDC to lead such a multi-agency analysis.

Do the agencies need additional resources to support research and surveillance of the interaction between PFAS exposure and COVID-19, beyond the funds provided thus far through FY 2020 appropriations and COVID-19 response legislation?

### [Read the full letter here.](#)

### [MANCHIN STATEMENT ON GRAND OPENING OF FAIRMONT MEDICAL CENTER](#)

Washington, DC – U.S. Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) released the following statement on the grand opening of the Fairmont Medical Center (FMC) today.

“The closure of Fairmont Regional Medical Center (FRMC) in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic was a devastating loss for Fairmont and all of Marion County. For 80 years, FRMC served the community with its emergency room caring for 20,000 patients every year. West Virginia has lost four hospitals in the last year, making it clear there is a critical need for access to quality healthcare for West Virginians. The new Fairmont Medical Center will not replace all of those jobs lost, but will help provide those services and is progress for WVU Medicine and the Marion County community. As we continue to battle this global pandemic, I am confident that this medical center will provide vital services to countless families with its emergency department, inpatient beds, and laboratory services. FMC's services are more essential than ever to ensure our communities have access to the reliable, quality healthcare they deserve, no matter where they live.”

WV, contacted the Senator's office requesting assistance with his direct deposit information for his VA compensation check. Caseworker Gerrie Greene contacted the VA congressional office for assistance with this matter. The VA congressional office found that Mr. Connard had been a victim of fraudulent activity and his account now has an incident warning placed on it. Mr. Connard received his prior month's compensation from the VA and the fraudulent activity on his account remains under investigation.

## From the Hill to the Mountains

### [MANCHIN, CAPITO ANNOUNCE MORE THAN \\$8 MILLION IN DHS SUPPORT FOR WEST VIRGINIA](#)

Washington, DC – U.S. Senators Joe Manchin (D-WV) and Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, today announced \$8,682,547 from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for several support services in West Virginia. Specifically, this funding will be used to strengthen the state's homeland security, emergency management performance, and provide counseling services for individuals struggling with mental health issues stemming from COVID-19.

"West Virginia must be prepared to manage any emergency that threatens our neighbors, family, and friends. This funding from DHS will help West Virginia programs which prepare and respond to disasters and emergencies across our state. I am pleased that DHS is supporting these programs that help West Virginians in their times of need and will continue to fight for West Virginia to receive funding that helps our citizens and communities," Senator Manchin

## TESTING

*Where can I get a test?* This is a question my office has received since the beginning of this pandemic. Please note that this is not a comprehensive list; there may be more testing sites out there that are added daily. In order to provide as much reliable information as possible, I am including testing sites that are verified through an official communication or news release.

For any organizations or health care organizations who would like their site listed, or who have updates on their hours or requirements, please email me at [common\\_sense@manchin.senate.gov](mailto:common_sense@manchin.senate.gov).

It is recommended that you seek testing only when you begin exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19. [Click here to view the screening criteria](#). To report your symptoms and be directed to one of the available testing sites, contact your primary care doctor or a designated hotline for your area. Most, if not all, sites require a physician's order before testing. If you have gone through these steps and are still having issues getting a test, please email me at [common\\_sense@manchin.senate.gov](mailto:common_sense@manchin.senate.gov) and a member of my staff will reach out to you to see if we can assist.

[Click here for WV DHHR's latest updates to reported COVID-19 cases](#)

[Click here to find a testing site near you.](#)

**Any new additions or updates to testing sites will be included below. The full list of verified testing sites and events is available on [manchin.senate.gov/coronavirus](http://manchin.senate.gov/coronavirus).**

**New testing event added:**

### HARRISVILLE

LOCATION: Ritchie Regional Health Care, 135 S. Penn Avenue, Harrisville

HOURS: July 10 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

- Insurance will be billed, bring card
- If no insurance, there is no cost to individual
- Do not have to be a patient of RRHC
- You will remain in your car

said.

**MANCHIN, CAPITO ANNOUNCE  
\$28K FOR DRINKING WATER  
PROTECTION IN WEST  
VIRGINIA**

Charleston, WV – U.S. Senators Joe Manchin (D-WV) and Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, today announced \$28,000 from the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency for a state public water supervision program in southern West Virginia. This funding will be distributed to the West Virginia Department of Health & Human Resources (DHHR) and will help develop state drinking water standards and collect public water system data.

“Every West Virginian deserves clean water to drink and fresh air to breathe. This funding will help the West Virginia DHHR develop state drinking water standards to help ensure that everyone has access to safe drinking water. I will continue to advocate for West Virginia to receive funding like this that supports keeping our communities healthy and safe,” said Senator Manchin.

**MANCHIN, CAPITO ANNOUNCE  
\$1 MILLION FOR WEST  
VIRGINIA TOBACCO CONTROL  
PROGRAM**

Charleston, WV – U.S. Senators Joe Manchin (D-WV) and Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, today announced \$1,024,172 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for the West Virginia tobacco control program.

“West Virginia has one of the highest rates of lung cancer per capita in the nation. This tobacco control program will help increase awareness about the effects of tobacco and the need for regular

## RESOURCES

Our office is working diligently to bring you the most up-to-date information as it becomes available. Click the links below for more information. All information regarding resources and more can be found on Senator Manchin's website.

### [Unemployment & Direct Payments](#)

### [Veterans Assistance](#)

### [Basic Needs](#)

### [Business Assistance](#)

### [Volunteer](#)

### [Feeling Ill?](#)

### [WV 211:](#)

United Way of West Virginia provides an important service to West Virginians by helping users navigate the vast number of resources available to aid with healthcare issues, food shortages, mental health questions and more. This program is more important now than ever as we battle the COVID-19 pandemic and I commend United Way for continuing to serve their fellow West Virginians through this time.

United Way's new 2-1-1 will make information on a wide variety of local support services more accessible across our entire state,” said United Way of Central WV President, Margaret O’Neal. “Whether it’s information for locating a health clinic, finding child care programs, or getting housing assistance, 2-1-1 is an easy-to-remember, go-to resource for individuals and families.

**To utilize these resources West Virginians can:**

**Call 2-1-1**

**Text your zip code to 898-211**

**Visit <http://www.wv211.org/contact>**

**Call toll-free 1-833-848-9905**

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lung cancer screenings for high risk West Virginians. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I will continue to advocate for funding that benefits the health of all West Virginians," Senator Manchin said.

**Any new or updated resource information will be posted below. All information is available and updated daily on [manchin.senate.gov/coronavirus](https://manchin.senate.gov/coronavirus).**

To learn more, call my office Toll Free at (855) 275-5737, [email](#) me, or find me on social media:

Facebook   YouTube   Twitter

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