FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE:

- Commission Insights Help Cut Through Pandemic Confusion and Protect Those Most at Risk
- MITRE Engages in Whole-of-Community Approach to Reduce Veterans’ Suicide Rate
- MITRE Tool Bridges the Resource Gap to Help Communities Fight COVID-19
- In Times of Crisis, Supply Chain Stability Critical to Public Health and Well-Being
Commission Insights Help Cut Through Pandemic Confusion and Protect Those Most at Risk

With nursing homes especially susceptible to COVID-19, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) tasked MITRE, as operator of the CMS Alliance to Modernize Healthcare (Health FFRDC), to manage an independent commission to identify best practices for resident care. As a convener of experts, we assembled a dynamic group—from academics to consumer advocates to a nursing home resident—for dialogue about how to improve nursing home safety and quality of life. We synthesized and represented Commission findings through multiple written products, including 27 principal recommendations and 100-plus action steps, some of which CMS acted on immediately, addressing conundrums such as balancing infection-control practices with residents’ needs for visitation. MITRE’s role in fostering a collaborative, action-oriented culture—under highly fluid conditions—helped the Commission provide a “blueprint” to CMS to improve future care delivery for our most vulnerable citizens. **MORE**

MITRE Engages in Whole-of-Community Approach to Reduce Veterans’ Suicide Rate

To address the tragedy of veterans’ suicide, MITRE is partnering with government, academia, and community groups to explore ways to improve social connectedness as a key preventative factor. By applying design thinking—and engaging veterans themselves in developing solutions—the initiative employs empathy, creativity, and immersion in the problem to explore veterans’ unmet needs. The approach helps organizations to ask better questions, challenge assumptions, and give credibility to the need for fostering social connectedness throughout the service journey—and increases the likelihood that healthcare providers, service organizations, and at-risk veterans themselves will leverage developed solutions. The process can also be applied to a broader set of public crises. **MORE**

“**It’s a different world when veterans leave the military. We’re aiming to foster social connectedness and support systems to help veterans at transition points throughout and after their time in the service.**”

—Tammy Freeman, MITRE Innovation Program Design for Life project lead
MITRE Tool Bridges the Resource Gap to Help Communities Fight COVID-19

In the ongoing battle against COVID-19, the Sara Alert™ monitoring tool is a force multiplier. With the coronavirus disproportionally affecting low-income communities, Sara Alert provides free remote symptom monitoring and contact tracing, automating the process and including multiple reporting methods independent of technology access. Its inclusive features boost equitable access to public health pandemic response—ultimately improving health outcomes for all. Designed as disease-independent, this open-source, nationally available singular system can also be easily adapted to future public health emergencies. MORE

In Times of Crisis, Supply Chain Stability Critical to Public Health and Well-Being

With preparations underway to distribute COVID-19 vaccines, ensuring the efficiency and effectiveness of U.S. supply chains has never been more important. The MITRE-managed COVID-19 Healthcare Coalition collaborates to preserve the healthcare system and protect citizens—and has focused concerted effort on improving our nation’s supply chain stability. The Coalition, which includes healthcare organizations, technology firms, nonprofits, and academia, published key recommendations to help organizations prepare for upcoming phases of pandemic response, and also offers data-driven insights via a demand forecasting model for personal protective equipment. Public- and private-sector organizations can leverage and adapt the Coalition’s supply chain capabilities and recommendations to solve other crisis-driven equipment or infrastructure needs and ensure public health and well-being, including equitable testing access, resources for agricultural workers, and supporting vaccine distribution. MORE

What Is Innovation and How Do We Do It?

Jan. 14 | 1 pm  REGISTER
Jan. 26 | 11 am  REGISTER

Join us for a one-hour interactive discussion on innovation, what it means in the context of our health and human services work, and how MITRE’s Innovation Toolkit can help your teams work together to solve hard problems.

“Increased access is what we developed [Sara Alert] for—to make all communities safer.”

—Dr. Paul Jarris, chief medical advisor of MITRE’s health program and Sara Alert project lead
About the CMS Alliance to Modernize Healthcare (Health FFRDC)

The CMS Alliance to Modernize Healthcare federally funded research and development center (Health FFRDC) accelerates innovation by connecting people and data to reinvent health systems, enhance the care experience, and protect and promote health and well-being. Sponsored by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Health FFRDC serves as an objective adviser to all HHS organizations and other federal agencies with health and human services missions. As operator of the Health FFRDC, MITRE combines cross-cutting capabilities in health policy, clinical informatics, interoperability, and data analytics with world-class information technology, systems engineering, and prototyping to improve the health and well-being of the nation. Learn more.

About MITRE

MITRE’s mission-driven teams are dedicated to solving problems for a safer world. Through public-private partnerships and federally funded research and development centers, we work across government and in partnership with industry to tackle challenges to the safety, stability, and well-being of our nation. Learn more.

About MITRE Health Innovations newsletter

The MITRE Health Innovations newsletter highlights MITRE and Health FFRDC projects that have potential for future applications. We hope that you consider reusing these novel solutions for our nation’s healthcare and public health challenges. We’d be delighted to hear your feedback at healthinnovations@mitre.org. The MITRE Health Innovations newsletter is published quarterly. Subscribe to this newsletter.

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