



# HealthShare Exchange

## **HSX Collaborating with State and City Public Health Authorities Through Its COVID-19 CONTAIN Services**

In March 2020, HealthShare Exchange (HSX, the Delaware Valley's regional, nonprofit health information organization) launched its COVID-19 CONTAIN (COntrol, NOtification, TRacking, ACTivity, INTElligence) strategy. Using the power of data and health information exchange, HSX shifted staff and platform resources to provide Smart Alert notifications to primary-care-provider participants when one of their patients has a COVID-19-related encounter. HSX's COVID-19 tracking and intelligence analytics are also keeping the healthcare community informed on the outbreak's trends, demographics, and patterns. Reporting multiple times weekly to area healthcare stakeholders, including city and state health departments, HSX continues to aggregate and share this data to support continuity of patient care and a coordinated Greater Philadelphia response.

**HSX began sharing COVID-19 patient health information (PHI) with the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) and the Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDHP) at their request so that these public health authorities can use this important information for the purposes of preventing and controlling COVID-19, including reporting, surveillance and interventions. The agencies have called for this information in their capacity as public health authorities during this national emergency, and HSX is complying under the Department of Health and Human Services' published [Enforcement Discretion Action](#). HSX limits data routed to these departments to patients tested for, or diagnosed with, COVID-19.**

Further, HSX extended and refined its agreement with the City of Philadelphia in June 2020 to provide data and services to support COVID-19 contact tracing. The information thus shared will remain secure and confidential, and will be used exclusively for the PDHP's efforts to safe-guard public health and reach out to diagnosed and exposed individuals.

Sharing of PHI is also consistent with HSX's long-standing data sharing with the State of Pennsylvania for disease registries and for use in the Pennsylvania Patient Provider Network (P3N) for statewide health information exchange for purposes of patient care. HSX ensures that transmission of the electronic PHI is secure and encrypted.

The current sharing of COVID-19-related PHI with public health authorities will continue until the end of the coronavirus public-health emergency or the termination of the Enforcement Discretion Action. As always, and especially during this time, HSX appreciates your support and partnership.