The Office for Civil Rights has issued a bulletin regarding civil rights laws during the COVID-19 emergency.

Has the federal government eased requirements, such as providing interpreters for individuals with limited English proficiency and sign language interpreters for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, in light of the COVID-19 emergency?

No. Laws such as Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act remain in effect. The HHS Office for Civil Rights has issued a bulletin “to ensure that entities covered by civil rights laws keep in mind their obligations under laws and regulations that prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age, sex, and exercise of conscience and religion in HHS-funded programs.”

- From HHS OCR Bulletin: Civil Rights, HIPAA, and the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), March 28, 2019
- From the ADA, Section 1557: The Basics