

# Toolkit on State Actions to Mitigate COVID-19 Prevalence in Nursing Homes

**November 2020** Version 14

Including recent information and guidance on vaccinations to prevent infection with influenza virus, pneumococcus, and SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19



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## DISCLAIMER

This document is a compilation of actions employed by organizations, including state governments, in the United States and outlying territories to assist nursing homes in meeting the needs of nursing home residents since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic recognized in early 2020.

The actions were collected by the contractors of the QIO Program, a statutorily mandated program of quality improvement contractors who work for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to improve the care of Medicare beneficiaries, including beneficiaries who reside in nursing homes. By law, a QIO works in every state and territory.

This information was collected by the QIOs in late April 2020, and compiled by CMS and its contractors to provide a rapid-access compendium for providers and administrators of nursing homes in the United States to learn from the many creative plans that state governments and other entities have put into operation in a short period of time.

This compendium is not intended as guidance from CMS. It does not replace or serve as a substitute for CMS requirements and policy. The actions outlined in this document have not been evaluated for effectiveness by CMS or any government agency. **This compendium is solely an informational product offered by CMS to nursing homes as well as state and local officials during the National Public Health Emergency.**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

CMS wishes to thank the many health care providers, state government employees and organizations that generously contributed materials developed in the first and second quarters of 2020 to this toolkit. CMS also extends its sincere appreciation to the management, health care providers and staff members of the nursing homes who work tirelessly to provide the best care for this vulnerable population while acting to stop further transmission of the virus.

## **OBJECTIVE:**

This toolkit catalogs the many innovative solutions designed at the state level to protect our nation's vulnerable nursing home residents during the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. Beginning in October 2020, the toolkit includes up-to-date information, guidance, and innovative programs designed to increase vaccine use against influenza virus, pneumococcus (bacterium), and SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

## **STAKEHOLDERS WHO PROVIDED INPUT INCLUDE GOVERNORS' OFFICES AND GOVERNORS' COVID-19 TASK FORCES**

- State affiliates of the American Health Care Association (AHCA)
- State affiliates of the American Hospital Association (AHA)
- LeadingAge state chapters
- State Bureaus of Health Provider Standards
- State and county Departments of Public Health
- State chapters of the Society for Post-Acute and Long-term Care Medicine (formerly AMDA)
- State and private universities
- Health facilities licensing and certification agencies
- State Departments of Epidemiology
- State long-term care Ombudsman offices
- State health care-acquired infection programs
- Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) state chapters
- Nursing home corporations
- State accountable care organizations
- State telemedicine programs
- Area Agencies on Aging (AAA)
- The Veterans Health Administration
- U.S. corporations
- State Departments of Emergency Management
- State Infectious Diseases Associations
- State Departments of Aging
- State Medicaid programs
- CMS regional offices
- End-stage renal disease (ESRD) networks
- Governors' reopening task forces
- State health care coalitions for disaster response
- State Project ECHO programs
- State rural health associations
- American Medical Association (AMA) state chapters
- State primary care associations

## ORGANIZATION OF THE DOCUMENT:

- This document has been optimized to help you find information quickly and easily. While the content is organized into sections, you may also rely on key word searches and the index to help you locate the information you need.
- Major categories include:
  - State actions for COVID-19 Management and Response, now including vaccinations
  - Telehealth
  - Organizations Available to Assist Nursing Homes
- State-specific information is included when available.
- The new vaccination section initially focuses on reliable sources of information available at the national level, but will explore state-based innovative programs in subsequent editions, especially as vaccination against COVID-19 becomes more widely available. COVID-19 vaccination may require advanced strategies in the vaccine delivery system (such as dual-dose vaccines and complex “cold-chain management”) that providers will need to master in order to be successful.
- When possible, references are given for the innovations, including links to contacts and resources for more information.

## I. STATE ACTIONS FOR COVID-19 MANAGEMENT AND RESPONSE

### 1. CLEANING/DISINFECTION

#### Alabama (AL)

*Alabama Hospital Association, Alabama Department of Public Health*

- Alabama has access to a Battelle Critical Care Decontamination Systems (CCDS)<sup>™</sup> located in Birmingham. Hospitals, nursing homes, and other health care providers have been encouraged to send their N95 masks for decontamination, free of charge, including shipping. The unit can decontaminate 80,000 masks per day  
<https://www.alaha.org/initiating-battelle-n95-decontamination>

*Alliant Quality*

- Alliant Quality developed the FROG (Friction Rubs Out Germs) Resource, including poster, to promote proper handwashing. Aliceville Manor Nursing Home in Aliceville, Alabama developed additional FROG posters to display across their facility and activity to reward staff with treats when they were seen washing their hands correctly  
[https://www.alliantquality.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/FROG-poster\\_12SOW-AHSQIN-QIO-TO1NH-20-171\\_508.pdf](https://www.alliantquality.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/FROG-poster_12SOW-AHSQIN-QIO-TO1NH-20-171_508.pdf)

*Office of the Governor Kay Ivey*

- Specially trained and equipped National Guard teams disinfect nursing homes that have COVID-19-positive residents. These teams will train staff on the techniques of donning and doffing personal protective equipment as well as sanitize and disinfect nursing homes that have COVID-19-positive residents and/or employees

#### Arizona (AZ)

*Haven Health Group and Pioneer Health Group*

- Uses a UV machine to disinfect face shields, N95 masks, iPads, nurse cart keys, and any other needed items
- Staff shower and change at the end of shifts in designated areas at the facility before leaving unit to reduce spread of COVID-19 in the community or at homes
- Use baby-nursery cameras in COVID-19-positive rooms to remotely monitor patients

#### California (CA)

*Two Palm Nursing Center, Inc.*

- Two Palms Nursing Center created an outside screening and infection prevention station for all health care workers (HCW) and visitors to utilize prior to allowing entrance into the facility. All HCWs and visitors entering the facility are screened one at a time for signs and symptoms of COVID-19
- Following the screening, they proceed to an outside "washing station" where they sanitize their hands and don personal protective equipment, including gowns, N95s and face shields. Prior to

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 1. Cleaning/Disinfection Continued

entering the nursing home, they step on a bleaching mat to ensure they do not track in contaminants from the outside into the facility

#### Connecticut (CT)

##### *Battelle CCDS Critical Care Decontamination System™*

- Performs decontamination of the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) to address personal protective equipment (PPE) shortage (cleans up to 80,000 units/day)
- Offered free to health care personnel
- Provided in eight locations  
<https://www.battelle.org/inb/battelle-ccds-for-covid19-satellite-locations>

#### Georgia (GA)

##### *Georgia Department of Public Health*

- During a recent Georgia Department of Public Health COVID-19 update call, the director of nursing for a nursing home located in southeast Georgia shared its COVID-19 containment strategies. The facility has had no COVID-19 cases since March 2020:
  - Infection control practices started early to include temperatures of staff and residents
  - Isolation plans were implemented for residents coming from the hospital, dialysis, or other external sources
  - The facility conducted frequent staff education and requested that staff only work in its facility and not others
  - Open windows allow fresh air in the building and residents have outdoor time with social distancing
  - The National Guard has assisted with cleaning
  - The facility continually communicates with families on pandemic activities, including testing as required by the state of Georgia
  - Leadership is committed to keeping all lines of communication open with staff, residents, and families to contain travel and reduce public exposure for the protection of the residents and staff

#### Illinois (IL)

##### *Health Care Council of Illinois (HCCI)*

- Developed COVID-19 Resource page, updated daily with information regarding state and federal regulations, infection control, personal protective equipment (PPE), and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) information
- Prepares weekly member newsletters and email blasts on COVID-19 related resources and events throughout the state  
<http://www.hccil.org/covid-19>

#### Indiana (IN)

##### *Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH)*

- On July 23, 2020, COVID-19 the Long Term Care Facilities Infection Control Guidance and Standard Operating Procedure document was updated with information about removal from transmission-based precautions to align with July 17, 2020, guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for residents and healthcare personnel  
[https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN\\_COVID-19%20LTC%20checklist%2007.23.20.pdf](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19%20LTC%20checklist%2007.23.20.pdf)
- The Department is using a Battelle *Critical Care Decontamination System (CCDS)™*, which can

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 1. Cleaning/Disinfection Continued

disinfect up to 80,000 N95 masks. Along with hospitals, use of this system is extended to long term care facilities

<https://www.battelle.org/inb/battelle-critical-care-decontamination-system-for-covid19>

- Indiana has distributed alcohol hand rub and five-gallon containers of COVID-19 cleaning solution to long term care facilities that have requested it
- ISDH released the Environmental Steps to Reduce Indoor COVID-19 Transmission, with recommendations and resources for facilities to follow to minimize the risk of virus transmission through indoor airflows

[https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN\\_COVID-19%20environmental%20steps%206.19.20.pdf](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19%20environmental%20steps%206.19.20.pdf)

#### Iowa (IA)

*GRX Holdings, LLC*

- GRx Pharmacies have helped a facility proactively set up an isolation unit, providing med cart, treatment cart and are waiting on a board of pharmacy waiver to provide a separate emergency kit for the unit

<https://www.grxholdings.com>

#### Kansas (KS)

*BioKansas: The Bioscience Network in Kansas*

- BioKansas website contains a listing of regional companies that are currently taking orders for critical supplies (i.e., testing and personal protective equipment)

[https://biokansas.org/?page\\_id=639](https://biokansas.org/?page_id=639)

Kansas Department of Health & Environment (KDHE)

- The KDHE Healthcare-Associated Infections & Antimicrobial Resistance Program has created a health care facility cleaning and disinfection guide

#### Louisiana (LA)

*Ferncrest Manor Living Center*

- Implemented an intervention for hand hygiene compliance that goes beyond the standard auditing. Developed an empowering technique called Secret Soap Spy as a fun, engaging way for staff to remind each other and to correctly perform the CDC-recommended hand hygiene elements. Staff are rewarded with praise and recognition if they get a “perfection” sticker from a secret spy

#### Massachusetts (MA)

*Battelle Critical Care Decontamination System (CCDS)<sup>™</sup>*

- Performs decontamination of the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) to address the personal protective equipment (PPE) shortage (cleans up to 80,000 units/day)

<https://www.battelle.org/inb/battelle-ccds-for-covid19-satellite-locations>



## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 1. Cleaning/Disinfection Continued

#### Minnesota (MN)

##### Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)

- MDH posted a new document to their website, “Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning, and Fan Considerations for Long Term Care During COVID-19.” This document provides guidance to long term care facilities on the proper control of air flow and ventilation (e.g., increasing air dilution, filtration, and directional air flows) to prevent transmission of COVID-19 (and other respiratory viruses) among residents and staff  
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/hvac.pdf>

#### Mississippi (MS)

##### Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA)

- MEMA is providing cleaning services for long term care facilities. A subject-matter expert is also available to perform assessments. Interested facilities are contacting their county emergency management agency  
<https://www.msema.org/county-ema>
- Battelle Critical Care Decontamination System (CCDS)<sup>™</sup> provides access to free N95 sterilization for health care facilities  
<https://www.battelle.org/inb/battelle-critical-care-decontamination-system-for-covid19>

#### Montana (MT)

##### The State of Montana

- Montana is using the Battelle Critical Care Decontamination System (CCDS)<sup>™</sup> to perform decontamination of the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) to address the personal protective equipment (PPE) shortage (cleans up to 80,000 units/day)  
<https://www.battelle.org/inb/battelle-critical-care-decontamination-system-for-covid19>

#### New Mexico (NM)

##### New Mexico Department of Health

- The Department of Health Improvement (DHI) is conducting virtual audits using video to verify the cleaning protocols and use of personal protective equipment (PPE) in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and immediate care facilities
- A review of all infection control procedures in all nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, skilled nursing facilities, and immediate care facilities was ordered
- New Mexico has contracted with cleaning company to clean all nursing homes in the state
- Specially trained and equipped National Guard teams disinfect nursing homes that have COVID-19-positive residents. These teams will train staff on the techniques of donning and doffing PPE as well as sanitize and disinfect nursing homes that have COVID-19-positive residents and/or employees
- The Battelle Critical Care Decontamination System (CCDS)<sup>™</sup> is used to perform decontamination of the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) to address the PPE shortage (cleans up to 80,000 units/day)  
<https://www.battelle.org/inb/battelle-ccds-for-covid19-satellite-locations>
- Find current statistics and guidance on COVID-19 from the New Mexico Department of Health at the below link.  
<https://cv.nmhealth.org>

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 1. Cleaning/Disinfection Continued

#### North Dakota (ND)

*CHI St. Alexius Health - Garrison, ND*

- Facility places contact time for cleaning and disinfecting products in large numbers on side of each bottle to keep that time more present in the mind of those using the products

*North Dakota Department of Health*

- Awarded a Battelle Critical Care Decontamination System™ to help address the current shortage of N95 respirators  
<https://www.health.nd.gov/battelle-critical-care-decontamination>

#### Ohio (OH)

*Office of the Governor Mike DeWine*

- Instrumental in expediting approval for Battelle Critical Care Decontamination System (CCDS)™
- Performs decontamination of the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) to address personal protective equipment (PPE) shortage (cleans up to 80,000 units/day)
- Offered free to health care personnel

*Ohio Department of Health*

- Web page offers suggestions for preventive cleaning against COVID-19 if everyday supplies, such as cleaning wipes or cleaning sprays, run out  
<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/checklists/english-checklists/cleaning-disinfecting-alternatives-covid-19-checklist>

*Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Department of Medicaid, Ohio Department of Aging, Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services*

- Includes practical tips for cleaning and disinfecting within the COVID-19 Long Term Services and Support (LTSS) Pre-Surge Planning Toolkit  
<https://medicaid.ohio.gov/COVID/Long-Term-Services-and-Support>

#### Oklahoma (OK)

*Oklahoma Assisted Living Association*

- Posts recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to prepare for COVID-19 in long term care facilities and nursing homes
- Provides additional interim guidance for infection prevention and control
- Hosts links to COVID-19 resources, such as a COVID-19 checklist, sample letters to families, volunteers and friends, and CDC and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services updates  
<https://www.okala.org>

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 1. Cleaning/Disinfection Continued

#### South Dakota (SD)

##### *Jenkins Living Center – Watertown*

- During the month of July, 2020, the South Dakota Department of Health's COVID-19: Hand Hygiene video was streamed in the Jenkins Living Center employee breakroom big screen monitor several times throughout the day as a reminder for all staff  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dEubiD7bjaQ&feature=youtu.be>

#### Texas (TX)

##### *Office of the Governor Greg Abbott*

- On May 5, 2020 at the Governor's direction, the Texas Military Department activated 250 Texas National Guard personnel in support of nursing facilities, with additional activations to meet mission demand. These Guardsmen formed teams to disinfect COVID-19 contaminated care facilities. Teams are based across Texas and are serving the eight Emergency Medical Task Force regions  
<https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/governor-abbott-expands-business-openings-in-texas-announces-surge-response-teams-to-combat-covid-19>

#### Utah (UT)

##### *State of Utah*

- Created an official YouTube account, Utah Coronavirus, for COVID-19 response and information. A new set of video resources are available, including the "Protect Yourself" video playlist that includes tips for self-isolation, proper mask wearing, hand hygiene and more  
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLa8O8licbk0umwGmBF323D-lv0m2TlbiC>

#### Virginia (VA)

##### *Laurels of University Park*

- Provided all environmental services staff with laminated daily and terminal room cleaning checklists. They can keep them on their carts and use as reference to ensure all cleaning steps were completed. Because they are laminated, they will use dry erase markers and disinfect between rooms

##### *Virginia Department of Health (VDH)*

- VDH released guidelines for cleaning and disinfection for SARS-CoV-2  
[https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/182/2020/05/4\\_VDH\\_Cleaning\\_and\\_disinfection\\_tips\\_for\\_COVID\\_04222020.pdf](https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/182/2020/05/4_VDH_Cleaning_and_disinfection_tips_for_COVID_04222020.pdf)

#### West Virginia (WV)

##### *Princeton Health Care Center*

- Princeton Health Care Center is working with engineers on air circulation and filtration amidst their current COVID-19 outbreak. On August 8, 2020, they reported additional interventions to slow the circulation of air while maintaining acceptable temperature ranges. They have also increased interventions related to filtration

## 2. REPORTING/GUIDANCE/MANDATED REPORTING

### Alaska (AK)

*Alaska Department of Health and Human Services*

- Receives updates and guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which is shared through the Alaska Public Health Alert Network (PHAN) to local health officials <https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-mandates>

### Arizona (AZ)

*Office of the Governor Doug Ducey*

- An Executive Order was issued to strengthen protection in residential and nursing care facilities by mandating reporting of COVID-19 positive cases in nursing homes <https://azgovernor.gov/governor/news/2020/04/governor-ducey-issues-executive-order-strengthening-protection-residential-and>

*The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS)*

- The ADHS released reporting guidance for facilities performing laboratory tests for COVID-19, including facilities using point-of-care devices such as FDA-authorized antigen diagnostic tests. The guidance follows a governor's executive order and requires facilities to report both positive and negative results for COVID-19 directly to ADHS within 24 hours. To assist long term care facilities, ADHS' guidance outlines the reporting process, how to enroll in the state system, and key considerations for establishing an efficient testing and reporting process [https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/AZDHS/2020/09/10/file\\_attachments/1542573/Reporting%20Guidance%20for%20Facilities%20using%20Point-Of-Care%20Devices%20to%20Test%20for%20COVID-19%20in%20Arizona.pdf](https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/AZDHS/2020/09/10/file_attachments/1542573/Reporting%20Guidance%20for%20Facilities%20using%20Point-Of-Care%20Devices%20to%20Test%20for%20COVID-19%20in%20Arizona.pdf)

### Arkansas (AR)

*Arkansas Department of Human Services (DHS) Office of Long Term Care (OLTC)*

- The state Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) is collaborating with Cecelia Vinson, Director OLTC, on National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) COVID-19 reporting and enrollment assistance
  - OLTC will refer nursing homes to the QIO for any assistance needed <https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/ltc/covid19/index.html>

### California (CA)

*California Department of Public Health (CDPH)*

- Provides resources for skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) on preventing, detecting, and preparing for COVID-19 in a toolkit titled "Preparing for COVID-19 in California Skilled Nursing Facilities" <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/CDPH%20Document%20Library/AFL-20-25-Attachment-01-SNF-Checklist.pdf>
- CDPH released an All Facilities Letter (AFL 20-43) on May 13, 2020, requiring all skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) to report daily updates regarding current staffing levels, the number of COVID-19 patients, and equipment availability to CDPH via an online survey. This reporting is to ensure that California has the information necessary to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak and to provide resources and support to SNFs. To meet the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reporting requirements, CDPH modified their daily online survey to include the questions

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 2. Reporting/Guidance/Mandated Reporting Continued

required by CDC via National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN)

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/AFL-20-43.aspx>

- CDPH will report this data to the CDC on behalf of facilities via the online SNF COVID-19 Survey
- <https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/f4050e65e5304c7d8b00760e7718fcc4>
- Due to the higher risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19 among nursing home residents, CDPH required all nursing homes to submit a mitigation plan by June 1, 2020 that must include six elements, including: 1) testing and cohorting, 2) infection prevention and control, 3) personal protective equipment (PPE), 4) staffing shortages, 5) designation of space, and 6) communication. To assist nursing homes in developing their plan and expanding their infection control policies, CDPH provided a mitigation plan template and local public health departments provided technical assistance to assist nursing homes in developing their plans
- <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/AFL-20-52.aspx>
- To ensure California has the information necessary to respond to COVID-19 outbreaks in nursing homes, CDPH requires all nursing homes to report daily updates regarding current staffing levels, the number of COVID-19 patients, and equipment availability via an online survey. Nursing homes are also required to report weekly data to Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services via the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN), so to reduce reporting burden, CDPH modified their daily online survey to include the questions required by CMS in NHSN. CDPH is now reporting data to CMS via NHSN on behalf of all nursing homes that conferred rights to CDPH
- <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/AFL-20-43.aspx>

#### Florida (FL)

*Florida Department of Health*

- Provides daily data updates for the number of positive cases, tests performed, deaths, number of long term care facilities with positive cases, number of persons under investigation, and other information
- <https://floridahealthcovid19.gov>

#### Georgia (GA)

*Georgia Department of Community Health*

- The Georgia Department of Community Health has added the number of resident recoveries to its daily Long Term Care COVID-19 Facility Report
- <https://dch.georgia.gov/announcement/2020-06-19/long-term-care-facility-covid-19-report>

*Georgia Healthcare Facility Regulation Department*

- Worked closely with the Georgia Department of Health, Georgia Health Care Association, and the Georgia National Guard to stay abreast of COVID-19 activity and the impact on centers
- Provides website updates with changes in rules and regulations, contact information, and a nurse aide program temporary waiver for staffing
- Surveyors have been connecting with long term care organizations, collecting information related to COVID-19 and coordinating with the National Guard to develop a system for collection of COVID-19 data
- The data collection platform will update the public daily at 2 PM, replacing a previous report from the Governor's Office
- <https://dch.georgia.gov/divisionsoffices/healthcare-facility-regulation>

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 2. Reporting/Guidance/Mandated Reporting Continued

#### Illinois (IL)

##### *Health Care Council of Illinois (HCCI)*

- Developed COVID-19 Resource page, updated daily with information regarding state and federal regulations, infection control, personal protective equipment (PPE), and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) information
- Prepares weekly member newsletters and email blasts on COVID-19 related resources and events throughout the state  
<http://www.hccil.org/covid-19>

##### *Illinois Department of Public Health*

- Issued COVID-19 safety guidance for nursing home residents and employees (e.g., screening and reporting symptoms), as well as visitation restrictions on March 20, 2020  
<http://www.dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/diseases-a-z-list/coronavirus/long-term-care-guidance>

#### Indiana (IN)

##### *Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH)*

- On April 10, 2020, took early action to require nursing home statewide reporting of all residents and employees in long term care facilities, jails, prisons, and congregate housing with positive COVID-19 results and any COVID-19 deaths within 24 hours  
[https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN\\_COVID-19%20Reporting\\_Order%204.8.20.pdf](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19%20Reporting_Order%204.8.20.pdf)
- On May 4, 2020, Indiana required all long term care facilities to provide daily reports to long term care residents and their designated representatives. These reports include the requirement to report new COVID-19 cases in residents and staff and new respiratory symptoms. In addition, long term care facilities must provide total number of cases and total number of deaths in resident and staff if requested by residents or their designated representative  
[https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN\\_COVID-19\\_comm%20guidelines%205.3.20.pdf](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19_comm%20guidelines%205.3.20.pdf)
- ISDH released updated guidance concerning the historical reporting of COVID-19 cases and deaths, the new REDCap survey used to capture cases and deaths within 24 hours beginning July 14th, clarification on aggregate facility-level reporting and NHSN submissions, and a request for all long term care facilities to complete a survey regarding their EHR vendor  
[https://www.ihca.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/LTC\\_Facilities\\_7\\_11\\_20.pdf](https://www.ihca.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/LTC_Facilities_7_11_20.pdf)
- ISDH issued clear guidelines for facilities so they can correctly and accurately submit COVID-19 data regarding their residents and staff. Importantly, the document announced that nursing facilities with SAMS Level 3 Access to National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) no longer have to report COVID-19 point of care (POC) test results to the state through the RedCaps Survey for POC test results, so long as those POC test results are reported through NHSN. However, until a nursing facility obtains SAMS Level 3 Access and reports POC test results to NHSN, the nursing facility must continue to report via the RedCaps Survey for POC test results  
[https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/INSDH/2020/10/29/file\\_attachments/1584487/LTC%20Data%20Submission%20Guidelines%20-%20Update%20-%202020.10.29.pdf](https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/INSDH/2020/10/29/file_attachments/1584487/LTC%20Data%20Submission%20Guidelines%20-%20Update%20-%202020.10.29.pdf)

#### Iowa (IA)

##### *Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals*

- Fields individual nursing home questions specific to survey or regulation, created a website FAQ

## *State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response*

### *2. Reporting/Guidance/Mandated Reporting Continued*

document for support on common questions, and provides 1135 waiver guidance. During surveys, the Department encourages nursing homes to reach out to the Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) or Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) for support

<https://dia.iowa.gov/about/novel-coronavirus-covid-19>

#### *Iowa Department of Public Health*

- Website houses multiple resources for COVID-19 guidance and long term care recorded webinars
- Conducts support webinars with ample Q&A time
- Manages hotline and individual nursing home assistance via email
- Provides support through emergency response team available (for example, personal protective equipment [PPE] supply)
- Create guidance documents for state specific requirements and reporting support  
<https://idph.iowa.gov/Emerging-Health-Issues/Novel-Coronavirus/Long-Term-Care>

#### *Iowa Long Term Care Ombudsman*

- Provides individual nursing home support for advocacy of needs at resident level
- Supports residents and families with concerns
- Encourages nursing homes to reach out to the Quality Improvement Organization, the Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA), and the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) for support
- Website houses multiple resources  
<https://www.iowaaging.gov/educational-resources/covid-19-older-iowans>

#### *LeadingAge of Iowa*

- Provides individual technical assistance; a weekly conference call; regular member newsletters; survey and regulatory guidance; and a website housing multiple COVID-19 topics  
<https://www.leadingageiowa.org/covid-19>

### **Kansas (KS)**

#### *Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE)*

- The Healthcare-Associated Infections & Antimicrobial Resistance Program released the Infection Prevention and Control Preparation Guide for Long-Term Care and Other Residential Facilities in Kansas  
<https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/DocumentCenter/View/979/LTCF-COVID-19-Preparedness-PDF---5-14-2020>

### **Kentucky (KY)**

#### *Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services*

- Issued guidance titled, “Provider Guidance Update: Phased Reduction of Restrictions for Long Term Care Facilities.” The guidance includes information about resuming group activities and communal dining. Beginning September 25, 2020, the two key determinants for resuming recreational and therapeutic group activities and communal dining for all long term care facilities should be 1) adhering to established social distancing guidelines of at least six feet between any two residents and 2) no new resident or staff COVID-19 cases within the past 14 days

<https://chfs.ky.gov/cv19/LTCFGuidancePhasedRestoration.pdf>

*Office of the Governor Andy Beshear*

- On October 26, 2020, Governor Andy Beshear reported 953 COVID-19 cases in Kentucky and issued new red zone reduction recommendations to stop COVID-19 spread and protect Kentuckians in the 55 counties currently in the red zone. Hospitalizations and deaths are also increasing nationally and in Kentucky. New red zone recommendations provide direction on how communities can come together to defeat COVID-19. Red zone counties are those with 25 or more average daily cases of COVID-19 per 100,000 residents. Red zone counties are updated daily on the incidence rate map on the [kycovid19.ky.gov](http://kycovid19.ky.gov) web page
  - The Governor said when a county turns red, we are already asking schools to go virtual, we ask for sports to pause and we restrict visitation in long term care facilities
  - Red Zone Reduction Recommendations:
    - Employers should allow employees to work from home when possible
    - Government offices that do not provide critical services need to operate virtually
    - Reduce in-person shopping; order online or pickup curbside as much as possible
    - Order take-out; avoid dining in restaurants or bars
    - Prioritize businesses that follow and enforce the mask mandate and other guidelines
    - Reschedule, postpone, or cancel public events
    - Do not host or attend gatherings of any size
    - Avoid non-essential activities outside your home
    - Reduce overall activity and contacts, and follow existing guidance
- <https://chfs.ky.gov/News/Documents/nrredzonerecommendations.pdf>

**Maryland (MD)**

*Maryland Baptist Aged Home*

- The nursing home joined the Maryland Department of Health group in National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN). This means that the daily reporting requirement to Chesapeake Regional Information System for our Patients (CRISP), the Maryland health information exchange (MD HIE), and the weekly reporting to NHSN has been combined, and CRISP is now reporting to NHSN on behalf of the nursing home
- <http://marylandbaptistagedhome.org>

*Garrett County Subacute Unit*

- The daily reporting requirement to Chesapeake Regional Information System for our Patients (CRISP) and the weekly reporting requirement to National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) have been divided between the Administrator and the infection preventionist staff in the nursing home. This helps make the reporting requirements less burdensome for one person, as well as making sure that a back-up staff member can take over this responsibility in case of a call-out
- <https://www.nursinghomes.com/md/oakland/garrett-county-subacute-unit>



### Michigan (MI)

#### *Michigan Long Term Care Ombudsman Program (MLTCOP)*

- MLTCOP conducts Frequently Asked Questions: Nursing Homes and COVID-19 weekly calls to respond to questions from family and friends of residents in nursing homes, adult foster care, and homes for the aged. Summaries of the questions and answers are posted on the website <https://mltcop.org/coronavirus>

#### *Office of the Governor Gretchen Whitmer, University of Michigan*

- Governor Gretchen Whitmer's MI Safe Start Plan outlines how we will begin to re-engage while continuing to keep our communities safe. Re-engagement will happen in phases. Businesses that are necessary to protect and sustain life are already open. As we move into lower-risk phases, additional business categories will re-open and the restrictions on public gatherings and social interactions will ease <https://www.mistartmap.info>

### Minnesota (MN)

#### *Minnesota Association for Geriatrics Inspired Clinicians (MAGIC) Clinical Practice Alliance Committee (CPAC)*

- Released "Managing COVID-19: A Guide for Skilled Nursing Facilities and Assisted Living Settings"
- Conducted a thorough review of publications from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), and the Society for Post-Acute and Long Term Care Medicine and developed a comprehensive guide for managing COVID-19 [https://www.minnesotageriatrics.org/uploads/1/1/8/4/118442543/magic-cpac\\_covid-19\\_manual\\_4.17.20\\_pdf.pdf](https://www.minnesotageriatrics.org/uploads/1/1/8/4/118442543/magic-cpac_covid-19_manual_4.17.20_pdf.pdf)

#### *Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)*

- MDH introduced new RedCap survey to share COVID-19 positive test results. Facilities are to use this survey when a positive COVID-19 case is confirmed. Usually the assigned MDH case manager will send the survey link to the facility, but providers are also encouraged to utilize the tool prior to a case manager being assigned <https://redcap-c19.web.health.state.mn.us/redcap/surveys/?s=H8MT9TTNCD>

### Mississippi (MS)

#### *Mississippi Division of Medicaid*

- Released the Civil Money Penalty (CMP) Reinvestment Application Template: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Communicative Technology Request [https://medicaid.ms.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/COVID-19\\_Amended-Application-Template\\_Final\\_508\\_20200428.pdf](https://medicaid.ms.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/COVID-19_Amended-Application-Template_Final_508_20200428.pdf)

#### *Mississippi State Department of Health*

- Partner with Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) Licensure & Certification with frequent contact
- Provide consultation to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in nursing homes
- Assist with personal protective equipment (PPE) attainment
- Nursing homes with COVID-19 cases receive daily follow-up

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 2. Reporting/Guidance/Mandated Reporting Continued

- Provides a table by county of Mississippi COVID-19 cases in long term care facilities  
[https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/\\_static/14,0,420.html](https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/14,0,420.html)

#### *Mississippi State Department of Health, Office of Epidemiology*

- Long term care facilities are required to report COVID-19 cases to Mississippi State Department of Health. Mississippi State Department of Health collaborates with the facility administrators to ensure that appropriate prevention measures are being taken

### **Missouri (MO)**

#### *The Quality Improvement Program for Missouri (QIPMO)*

- QIPMO is a cooperative service between the University of Missouri Sinclair School of Nursing and the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. It is composed of gerontological nurses who provide education on state actions to improve care delivery and outcomes for nursing home residents

### **Montana (MT)**

#### *Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services*

- Receives daily updates and guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which is shared through the state's Health Alert Network to local health officials. At the link below, scroll down and select 2020 HAN Messages.  
<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/han#1514810139-2020-han-messages>
- The Department, in collaboration with the Mountain Pacific Quality Health Organization, is providing technical assistance and support to nursing home facilities regarding reporting to the National Healthcare Surveillance Network (NHSN) system

#### *Mountain-Pacific Quality Health, Montana State Department of Health Epidemiology*

- Mountain-Pacific Quality Health Data Analyst Tom Vincent answers questions about National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) reporting and assists with the process to ease reporting for nursing homes. Videos of the May 18, 2020 and June 1, 2020 office hours are available on the Mountain Pacific website by following the link and clicking on NHSN  
<https://www.mpqhf.org/QIO/quality-improvement-tools-resources/nursing-home-quality-improvement-tools-resources>

### **Nebraska (NE)**

#### *Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)*

- Nebraska nursing homes are required to complete a comprehensive COVID-19 response planning tool by June 22, 2020. This tool is to be kept with the facility Emergency Preparedness Plan and is to be available at the request of the local health department or member of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)  
<http://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Documents/LTCC19ResponsePlanningTool.pdf#search=LONG%2DTERM%20CARE%20COVID%2D19%20RESPONSE%20PLANNING%20TOOL>
- The Long Term Care (LTC) Phasing Guidance document dated June 15, 2020 is intended to be used by nursing homes and assisted living facilities, in conjunction with the Long Term Care COVID-19 Response Planning Tool, as they plan for gradual return to standard facility practices  
<http://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Documents/LTCCOVID19PhasingGuidance.pdf>
- In response to the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak occurring in Nebraska and across the country, Nebraska Medicaid will be hosting regular conference calls each month at 9:30 AM Central Time

## *State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response*

### *2. Reporting/Guidance/Mandated Reporting Continued*

to provide updates on response to COVID-19. See the webpage below for a link to subscribe for updates which announce upcoming calls. To join the call: (877) 399-0501, Attendee Code: 8559164#

<http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Medicaid-Providers.aspx>

#### **New Jersey (NJ)**

##### *Office of the Governor Phil Murphy*

- Issued an Executive Order that directed health care facilities to report daily data concerning their capacity and supplies to the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management (OEM)  
<https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562020/20200328d.shtml>
- The health care facilities subject to this requirement include licensed acute care hospitals, long term care facilities, hospital systems, and emergency field treatment medical facilities, with OEM having the ability to make additions or clarifications to this list  
<https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/pdf/EO-111.pdf>
- On September 16, 2020, the governor signed a legislative package to address systemic challenges, mitigate the impact of COVID-19, and strengthen preparedness for future outbreaks. The package enacts several recommendations made in Manatt Health's rapid review of the state's long term care (LTC) facilities, including wage enhancements for frontline staff, improved response coordination, and robust data reporting procedures. The package includes bills to establish:
  - A LTC emergency operations center to direct resources and communications during public health emergencies and
  - A New Jersey Task Force on LTC Quality and Safety  
<https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562020/approved/20200916b.shtml>

##### *New Jersey Department of Health (NJDH)*

- NJDH released an updated version to the Outbreak Management Checklist for COVID-19 in Nursing Homes and other Post-Acute Care Settings. This checklist covers a wide array of areas to address when dealing with an outbreak, including Communications, Control Measures, Transfers, Infection Prevention and Control, Resident Management, and Staff Management.  
[https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/COVID\\_Outbreak\\_Management\\_Checklist.pdf](https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/COVID_Outbreak_Management_Checklist.pdf)
- Long term care facilities in New Jersey are required to report COVID-19 cases to their local health departments

##### *New Jersey COVID-19 Information HUB*

- Website provides county-based data dashboard, COVID-19 frequently asked questions, jobs portal, symptom checks, and state based updates  
<https://covid19.nj.gov>

#### **New York (NY)**

##### *Mount Sinai Icahn School of Medicine*

- Using artificial intelligence (AI) with imaging, clinical symptoms, exposure history, and laboratory data, created an algorithm to rapidly diagnose COVID-19 in patients  
<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41591-020-0931-3.pdf>

##### *New York State Department of Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health*

## *State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response*

### *2. Reporting/Guidance/Mandated Reporting Continued*

- Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health built an online educational program for contact tracing  
<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/ami%20d-ongoing-covid-19-pandemic-governor-%20cuomo-and-mayor-mike-bloomberg-%20launch-nation-leading>

#### *New York State Department of Health, Office of the Governor Andrew Cuomo*

- On October 6, Governor Cuomo announced the “Cluster Action Initiative” to address COVID-19 clusters throughout the state. The state worked with top public health experts to develop a science-based approach to contain the virus by directly targeting areas with highest concentration of cases. The initiative will divide clusters and surrounding areas into three categories with successively higher restrictions: red (cluster zone), orange (warning zone), and yellow (precaution zone). The new rules are in effect for a minimum of 14 days
  - The initiative is composed of three steps: 1) reduce in-person activities and interactions within the cluster; 2) take action in the area surrounding the cluster to stop the spread; and 3) take precautionary action in the outlying communities  
<https://forward.ny.gov/cluster-action-initiative>
- Issued a guide to re-opening New York  
<https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/NYForwardReopeningGuide.pdf>
- Governor Cuomo signed into law a requirement for an annual pandemic emergency plan for all nursing homes. The template provides specific steps nursing homes must take to develop and submit the detailed plan  
[https://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/nursing\\_home\\_administrator/dal/docs/dal\\_nh\\_20-09.pdf](https://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/nursing_home_administrator/dal/docs/dal_nh_20-09.pdf)
- The plan re-opens the region in four phases based in two-week time frames, based on the following criteria:
  - Decline in total hospitalizations
  - Decline in deaths
  - New Hospitalizations
  - Hospital Bed Capacity
  - ICU Bed Capacity
  - Diagnostic Testing Capacity
  - Contact Tracing Capacity  
<https://forward.ny.gov/regional-monitoring-dashboard>

#### **North Carolina (NC)**

##### *North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS)*

- NCDHHS created the Supporting Our Long-Term Care Facilities During COVID-19 Fact Sheet that outlines COVID-19 challenges and provides NCDHHS actions and guidance to address each challenge  
<https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/info-for/health-care/Supporting-Our-Long-Term-Care-Facilities.pdf>
- NCDHHS recently updated the state's online COVID-19 dashboard to include average turnaround time for COVID-19 testing. Located on the testing page, the graph shows the average daily turnaround time based on data from all laboratories that report electronically to NCDHHS.  
<https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/dashboard/testing>
- Statewide Standing Order for COVID-19 Diagnostic Testing and Reporting adopted on July 7,

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 2. Reporting/Guidance/Mandated Reporting Continued

2020

<https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/guidance/healthcare/COVID-19-Statewide-Standing-Order.pdf>

- NCDHHS released, “What to Expect: Response to New COVID-19 Cases or Outbreaks in Long Term Care Settings” on September 4, 2020. The resource captures relevant actions a nursing home should take when encountering new COVID infections  
<https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/slowcovidnc>

#### Ohio (OH)

##### *American Health Care Association (AHCA)*

- The Accepting Admissions AHCA Policy provides guidance to skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) to help make decisions about accepting hospital discharges to SNFs  
[https://www.ahcanca.org/facility\\_operations/disaster\\_planning/Documents/SNF-Admit-Transfer-COVID19.pdf](https://www.ahcanca.org/facility_operations/disaster_planning/Documents/SNF-Admit-Transfer-COVID19.pdf)

##### *Office of the Governor Mike DeWine*

- Governor DeWine’s web page announces any new changes to public policy as it pertains to COVID-19 and nursing homes. It also directs visitors to Ohio Department of Health’s COVID-19 website that provides the latest data on COVID-19. Some of this data does specifically pertain to Ohio’s nursing homes  
<https://governor.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/governor>

##### *Ohio Department of Aging*

- Created the following resources:
  - Caring for Residents with Dementia During the COVID-19 Outbreak: Provides specific guidance on caring of residents with dementia while requiring social distancing  
<https://aging.ohio.gov/wps/wcm/connect/gov/41a0bffe-2fbe-4030-83f6-f21056a4d561/covid-caregiver-checklist-2-dementia-care.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CVID=n4iolj5>
  - COVID-19 Education for Residents and their Families: Simple one-page document explains what residents and families can do for COVID-19  
<https://aging.ohio.gov/wps/wcm/connect/gov/edcf1bfa-745d-422f-ad89-f2d179e1fbae/COVID-19-Information-for-ltc-residents.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CVID=n4ir1IN>

##### *State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy*

- The Ohio Board of Pharmacy temporarily expanded multi-dose packaged prescriptions from a maximum 31-day fill to a 60-day fill, which will decrease pharmacy deliveries to nursing homes. This will reduce COVID-19 exposure from outside visitors and will also ensure that nursing home residents have sufficient medications during the pandemic  
<https://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/Documents/Pubs/Special/COVID19Resources/Temporary%20Expansion%20of%20the%20Maximum%20Days%20Supply%20for%20Multidose%20Packaging.pdf>

#### Oregon (OR)

##### *Department of Human Services (DHS), Social Security Administration (SSA)*

- DHS and the SSA have partnered to develop facility assessment requests from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

## *State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response*

### *2. Reporting/Guidance/Mandated Reporting Continued*

that are similar to aid in reporting

#### **Pennsylvania (PA)**

*Pennsylvania Department of Health*

- The Department of Health has shared COVID-19 resources  
<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx>
- State Registrar Notices include guidance on mandatory electronic reporting to the Bureau of Health Statistics and Registries of deaths caused or suspected to be caused by COVID-19  
<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Reporting-Registries/Pages/State-Registrar-Notices.aspx>

#### **Tennessee (TN)**

*Tennessee Department of Health (TDOH), Tennessee COVID-19 Unified-Command*

- On September 17, 2020, TDOH and Tennessee COVID-19 Unified-Command announced three new initiatives, including expanded visitation options, enhanced resident interactions, and a new Tennessee COVID-19 Long Term Care Task Force  
<https://www.tn.gov/health/news/2020/9/17/tennessee-launches-new-initiatives-for-long-term-care-facility-residents.html>

*The Middle Tennessee Regional Healthcare Quality Improvement Collaborative Communication Coalition*

- The Middle Tennessee Regional Healthcare Quality Improvement Collaborative Communication Coalition, a coalition working with Alliant Health Services, formed a task force that meets every other Thursday with representation from multiple counties in the Nashville area. Nursing homes, assisted living centers, the Mayor's office, and the Tennessee Department of Health are represented. They are working together to coordinate Personal Protective Equipment, testing, and National Healthcare Safety Network needs, such as assistance needed for enrollment and/or reporting in the COVID-19 module. Providers in the area network to invite other providers. A Senior Quality Advisor at AHS, Julie Clark, [julie.clark@allianthealth.org](mailto:julie.clark@allianthealth.org), is available to assist connection with this coalition

#### **Texas (TX)**

*The Academy of Medicine, Engineering and Science of Texas (TAMEST)*

- Experts discuss what the science says about the spread of COVID-19 in Texas and steps officials and individuals can take to mitigate the outbreak in the state. The moderator was Peter J. Hotez, MD, PhD (NAM), Dean for the National School of Tropical Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine. Speakers included Rebecca Fischer, PhD, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology & Biostatistics, Texas A&M University, and Lauren Ancel Meyers, PhD, Professor of Integrative Biology, The University of Texas at Austin  
<https://tamest.org/digital-conversations>

*Texas Department of Health and Human Services*

- Developed a nursing home COVID-19 response plan, which incorporates direction from state and federal agencies into an easy-to-use set of instructions for prevention of COVID-19 and actions to prioritize and initiate when there is a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case. It includes an easy-to-remember acronym of S.P.I.C.E. (see page 18). This document is updated regularly as guidance changes  
<https://hhs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/doing-business-with-hhs/provider-portal/long-term-care/nf/covid-response-nursing-facilities.pdf>

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 2. Reporting/Guidance/Mandated Reporting Continued

- On July 27, 2020, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission began to electronically post to its website COVID-19 case counts and deaths by facility name for state supported living centers, state hospitals, and state licensed nursing and assisted living facilities. They can be found in separate downloadable Excel files. The data is updated Monday through Friday by 3:00 PM Central Time, except state holidays. All data is provisional and subject to change.  
<https://hhs.texas.gov/services/health/coronavirus-covid-19>

#### *Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)*

- On September 9, 2020, the Texas HHSC released the Long-Term Care Regulatory Provider Letter outlining provider reporting requirements related to COVID-19 positive cases and deaths. The letter instructs all nursing, assisted living, and intermediate care facilities to report the first confirmed case of COVID-19 in staff or residents to the health authority with jurisdiction over the facility or directly to the Texas HHSC. Requirements include reporting:
  - The first confirmed case of COVID-19 in staff or residents after a facility has been without cases for 14 days or more
  - All suspected and confirmed COVID-19 cases (including residents, staff, and previously treated cases) to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (via the National Healthcare Safety Network) on a weekly basis
  - Three or more residents/staff with new-onset respiratory symptoms occurring within 72 hours to residents, their representative, and families<https://apps.hhs.texas.gov/providers/communications/2020/letters/PL2020-37.pdf>

#### **Utah (UT)**

##### *Office of the Governor Gary Herbert*

- The state of Utah has implemented a color-coded statewide health guidance system to guide health behaviors for individuals and businesses. Each level of the dial is guided by a rigorous measurement system for each region, county, city or community  
<https://coronavirus.utah.gov/utahs-health-guidance-system>
- The Utah COVID-19 task force developed a COVID-19 Business Manual for Utah businesses. This is a step by step plan from the Utah Department of Health created to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This guide provides guidance that can be used throughout the pandemic for any business and has current recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and U.S. Department of Labor  
[https://coronavirus-download.utah.gov/business/COVID-19\\_Business\\_Packet\\_FIN.pdf](https://coronavirus-download.utah.gov/business/COVID-19_Business_Packet_FIN.pdf)

##### *Utah COVID Task Force*

- Shared guidelines for non-essential travel for communities  
<https://coronavirus.utah.gov/travel>

##### *Utah Hospital Association*

- The Utah roadmap for resuming elective procedures has been updated to include new guidance for hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers  
<https://coronavirus.utah.gov/state-issues-public-health-order-allowing-hospitals-and-physicians-to-resume-some-elective-surgeries>

#### **Virginia (VA)**

##### *Virginia Department of Health*

- VDH created Nursing Home Guidance for Phased Reopening which provides Virginia-specific

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 2. Reporting/Guidance/Mandated Reporting Continued

guidance providing practical strategies for nursing homes to implement phased and safe reopening plans

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/182/2020/06/VDH-Nursing-Home-Guidance-for-Phased-Reopening-6.18.2020.pdf>

#### Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association (VHHA)

- VHHA launched a nursing home dashboard with statistics associated with COVID-19 cases in licensed nursing facilities. The dashboard is updated daily with information nursing facilities voluntarily submit via the Virginia Healthcare Alerting and Status System (VHASS) related to:

- Confirmed and pending resident COVID-19 cases
- The number of residents who have recovered from COVID-19
- Challenges in obtaining specific types of personal protective equipment (PPE)

<https://www.vhha.com/communications/virginia-licensed-nursing-facility-covid-19-dashboard>

#### Virginia Health Care Association–Virginia Center for Assisted Living (VHCA-VCAL)

- VHCA-VCAL created a Timeline for COVID-19 Regulations and Guidance that provides a color coded timeline of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), and state-issued guidance and related updates or revisions

<https://www.vhca.org/files/2020/05/Timeline-for-COVID-19-Regulation-and-Guidance-05112020.pdf>

#### Washington (WA)

##### Washington State Department of Health

- Updated recommendations for long term care facilities with sample visitor announcements, employee callout logs and outdoor visitation guidelines for facilities

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/HealthcareProviders/LongTermCareFacilities>

#### West Virginia (WV)

##### Stonerise Healthcare Corporation

- This corporation of nursing homes developed its own reporting page related to COVID-19 that listed its nursing homes along with location, current patients, and number of negative and positive COVID-19 patients in each facility. The corporation also schedules tele-visits with residents for family members

<http://www.stonerisehealthcare.com/coronavirus-update>

##### West Virginia Department of Health and Human Services, West Virginia Health Care Association

- Offers guidelines for COVID-19 outbreaks in long term care facilities through its website, including:
  - Contact precautions
  - Hand hygiene observation tool
  - Long term care facility outbreak resources toolkit
- Outlines provider responsibility for reporting requirements for suspected or confirmed cases
- Provides general information on West Virginia resources, including medical transport guidelines
- Developed guidelines for COVID-19 outbreaks in long term care facilities. Topics include:
  - Outbreak definitions
  - Preventing an outbreak
  - What to do if a case is detected



*State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response*

*2. Reporting/Guidance/Mandated Reporting Continued*

- Measures to control the outbreak
  - Lab testing
  - Health care personnel exposure
  - Management of residents returning from hospitalization or new admissions
  - Criteria to remove residents from isolation
- <https://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx>

### 3. TESTING

#### **Alabama (AL)**

*Office of the Governor Kay Ivey*

*Alabama Nursing Home Association Education Foundation*

- The Alabama Nursing Home Association Education Foundation is administrating the payment for the statewide nursing home COVID-19 testing strategy announced by Governor Kay Ivey <https://governor.alabama.gov/newsroom/2020/07/governor-ivey-awards-18-27-million-for-coronavirus-testing-for-alabama-nursing-homes>

*Office of the Governor Kay Ivey*

- An Alabama state based COVID-19 taskforce is maintaining a website which provides a wide variety of helpful COVID-19 information, including testing sites, news, and resources. The website is intended to also connect businesses, nonprofits, and people that need help with the right program partners and to connect program partners with people and resources to help those most in need <https://covid19.alabama.gov>

*United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)*

- HHS is sending rapid point of care testing instruments to several Alabama nursing homes based on priority. Nursing homes are being prioritized by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services through data sources that consider epidemiological hot spots, availability of testing, and COVID-19 rates within nursing homes. The following link provides a downloadable file with details about the device allocation <https://data.cms.gov/Special-Programs-Initiatives-COVID-19-Nursing-Home/Nursing-Home-Data-Point-of-Care-Device-Allocation/jbvf-tb74>

#### **Arizona (AZ)**

*Arizona Department of Health Services*

- Released COVID-19 diagnostic testing recommendations for long term care facilities providing guidance on the types of tests and testing frequency. The document offers insight into planning for specimen collection, testing, data management, and coordinating reporting. In addition, it includes recommendations for swabbing, which includes appropriateness, location of specimen collection, PPE, and cleaning and disinfection <https://azdhs.gov/documents/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/infectious-disease-epidemiology/novel-coronavirus/healthcare-providers/recommendations-long-term-care-facility-diagnostic-testing.pdf>

*Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), Arizona Health Care Association, SonoraQuest Lab*

- Along with local public health departments and providers, launched an initiative to test all residents and staff in Arizona’s nursing care institutions over a two-week period (May 15 – May 29, 2020). Facilities were given the option of having a lab come to their location to do the testing or obtain the supplies to do their own on-site testing. Organizations who decided not to participate needed to sign an “opt out” notice and send to ADHS

3. Testing Continued

**California(CA)**

*California Association of Long Term Care Medicine (CALTCM), Health Services Advisory Group (HSAG)*

- Convened a Delphi panel of long term care clinicians that published “Diagnostic Testing for SARS-Coronavirus in the Nursing Facility: Recommendations of a Delphi Panel of Long-Term Care Clinicians” on May 30, 2020 in the Journal of Nutrition, Health and Aging. The article supports facility-wide testing of all staff and residents and provides recommendations to nursing homes in hopes of providing value to the long term care industry and to policy makers  
<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s12603-020-1401-9>

*California Covid-19 Testing Task Force*

- Governor Newsom launched the COVID-19 Testing Task Force, a public-private working group with stakeholders across the state, to quickly boost California’s testing capacity. The Testing Task Force ensures California has enough capacity and supplies to administer a significantly greater number of tests statewide. The task force maintains and publishes a list of approved labs that have met all criteria for readiness, and disseminates information to nursing homes throughout the state to ensure facilities have access to testing  
<https://testing.covid19.ca.gov>

*California Department of Public Health (CDPH)*

- On September 12, 2020, the CDPH released new recommendations for baseline screening, and response-driven testing of nursing home residents and staff. The recommendations also provide guidance on the use of point of care antigen testing instruments. CDPH is requiring all nursing homes, including those without positive COVID-19 cases, to implement weekly testing for all nursing home staff. Facilities with a positive COVID-19 case must conduct weekly response-driven testing for all residents and staff. Weekly response-driven testing will continue until no new positive cases are identified among residents after two sequential rounds of testing  
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/AFL-20-53.aspx>

*Cedar Crest Nursing and Rehabilitation Center*

- Cedar Crest Nursing and Rehabilitation Center was declared COVID-19 free on May 13, 2020 after battling the virus for seven weeks, which infected 55 percent (44) of their residents and 13 percent (19) of their staff. One third of their residents that tested positive were asymptomatic, and half of their staff that tested positive were asymptomatic. The solutions to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 included: 1) mass testing and cohorting to determine who is positive in the facility; 2) get permission from local public health department to allow asymptomatic staff to care for COVID-19 positive residents; 3) appoint a dedicated liaison to handle communication with staff and families; 4) establish a tracking system, such as a binder with tabs for every day of the month to file all communication, occurrences and activities

*County of Los Angeles*

- With increased community spread of COVID-19 and heightened demand for testing, Los Angeles County has committed \$400,000 in one-time bridge funding to support staffing-related costs at COVID-19 testing sites operated by Community Organized Relief Effort (CORE), a nonprofit, within the City of Los Angeles. In addition, the County will continue to fully fund its nine operated sites and is also preparing to add additional testing sites in coming weeks to areas identified as “hot spots” where data illustrates high test positivity, low testing access, and high mortality. Nursing Home employees can potentially introduce COVID-19 into the facilities. To avert this from occurring, the County of Los Angeles committed additional funding to support

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 3. Testing Continued

testing site. That effort will include partnerships with community-based organizations to target high-risk communities through street outreach teams delivering COVID-19 prevention messages door-to-door

<https://covid19.lacounty.gov/covid19-news/la-county-commitment-testing-site-funding>

#### Colorado (CO)

*Office of the Governor Jared Polis*

- Colorado Governor Jared Polis initiated a COVID-19 Innovation Response Team, taking a multipronged approach that includes increased testing, tailored social-distancing measures, a reinforced health care system, and a bolstering of state epidemiological resources  
<https://covid19.colorado.gov/press-release/state-announces-residential-outbreak-task-force>
- The Colorado National Guard was deployed to test residents and staff at three of the state's largest nursing homes, even though outbreaks have not been reported at the facilities  
<https://www.nationalguard.mil/News/Article/2167756/colorado-national-guard-testing-residents-for-covid-19>

#### Connecticut (CT)

*Office of the Governor Ned Lamont; Connecticut Department of Public Health*

- Statewide adoption of an Omnibus Testing Program has resulted in minimal growth in COVID-19 infections. Point prevalence surveys involve testing all residents of any nursing home, excluding those already confirmed with COVID-19, all at a single point in time. The results allow facilities to thoroughly identify and cohort all infected residents from non-infected residents at one time.  
<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Coronavirus/20200618-Nursing-Home-COVID19-Testing-Implementation-Summary.pdf>

#### Florida (FL)

*Florida Department of Health*

- Provides daily data updates for number of positive cases, tests performed, deaths, number of long term care facilities with positive cases, number of persons of interest, and other information  
<https://floridahealthcovid19.gov>

*Florida Agency for Health Care Administration*

- Implemented emergency rules to require hospitals test all residents before discharge to a nursing home, and to require nursing homes to test all staff when arranged by the Department of Health

*United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)*

- HHS is sending rapid point of care testing instruments to several Florida nursing homes based on priority. Nursing homes are being prioritized by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services through data sources that consider epidemiological hot spots, availability of testing, and COVID-19 rates within nursing homes. The following link provides a downloadable file with details about the device allocation  
<https://data.cms.gov/Special-Programs-Initiatives-COVID-19-Nursing-Home/Nursing-Home-Data-Point-of-Care-Device-Allocation/jbvf-tb74>

### 3. Testing Continued

#### Georgia (GA)

*Georgia National Guard, Department of Public Health, Department of Community Health*

- Developed a testing strategy in response to Governor Brian Kemp's recommendations to support broader testing and to prioritize testing of vulnerable populations and health care professionals
- Ultimately, this strategy will expand to include private or commercial labs. More than 200 nursing homes have invited teams into their centers for cleaning and sanitizing, staff education, and assistance with testing

[https://www.ghca.info/Files/National Guard Test Team for LTCF Process.pdf](https://www.ghca.info/Files/National_Guard_Test_Team_for_LTCF_Process.pdf)

*Georgia Department of Public Health (GDPH)*

- GDPH is using an online contact tracing program called Healthy Georgia Collaborative. Following a confirmed positive case, the department will contact those who were in contact with the individual two days before illness set in and enroll them in symptom monitoring. Individuals will be asked to monitor and report their symptoms through text messaging or phone calls and are asked to stay home for 14 days

<https://dph.georgia.gov/contact-tracing>

- Provides on-site support and developed a process for video audits, which has been invaluable to those in "hot spots" of COVID-19 activity
- Collected data from health care facilities on the State Electronic Notifiable Disease Surveillance System (SendSS) network
- Supported health care facilities with virtual and on-site visits
- Tested COVID-19 samples at the Georgia Department of Public Health laboratory

<https://dph.georgia.gov>

*United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)*

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<https://data.cms.gov/Special-Programs-Initiatives-COVID-19-Nursing-Home/Nursing-Home-Data-Point-of-Care-Device-Allocation/jbvf-tb74>

#### Guam (GU)

*Guam Office of the Governor Ralph DLG. Torres COVID-19 Task Force*

- Acquired 60,000 COVID-19 test kits, with priority one being health care facility workers, then patients in long term care facilities with symptoms and patients 65 years and older with symptoms

[https://chcc.gov.mp/DocumentFiles/CNMI%20acquires%2060%2C000%20COVID-19%20test%20kits\\_%20receives%20first%2020%2C000.pdf](https://chcc.gov.mp/DocumentFiles/CNMI%20acquires%2060%2C000%20COVID-19%20test%20kits_%20receives%20first%2020%2C000.pdf)

#### Hawaii (HI)

*University of Hawaii Department of Geriatrics, Healthcare Association of Hawaii*

- The Long term care (LTC) COVID-19 Project Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO) series has included topics such as COVID-19 testing, planning for dementia residents,

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 3. Testing Continued

symptom management, and readiness in care homes and congregate settings

<https://geriatrics.jabsom.hawaii.edu/geriatrics>

<https://geriatrics.jabsom.hawaii.edu/ltss>

#### Idaho (ID)

*Office of the Governor Brad Little, Idaho State Department of Health*

- The Idaho Rebounds plan was released which is a guideline for re-opening Idaho in stages based on qualifying criteria, inclusive of testing.

[https://rebound.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/opening-up-guidlines\\_rev080620.pdf](https://rebound.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/opening-up-guidlines_rev080620.pdf)

#### Illinois (IL)

*Chicago Department of Public Health*

- Created a dedicated website with specific long term care guidance to help implement appropriate infection prevention and control, rapidly identify potentially infected staff/visitors, monitor residents for signs and symptoms of infection, access testing for residents and facility staff, investigate clusters of COVID-19, and connect to needed resources, including personal protective equipment (PPE)

<https://www.chicagohan.org/covid-19/LTCF>

*Health Care Council of Illinois (HCCI)*

- Developed COVID-19 Resource page, updated daily with information regarding state and federal regulations, infection control, personal protective equipment (PPE), and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) information
- Prepares member newsletters and email blasts on COVID-19 related resources and events throughout the state

<http://www.hccil.org/covid-19>

*Illinois Department of Public Health*

- Launch of a new, web-based COVID-19 electronic test ordering and reporting portal will allow health care providers to enter all necessary data to electronically submit a COVID-19 test sample from a computer or tablet
- <https://www.team-ihh.org/files/non-gated/quality/electronic-test-ordering-reporting-portal.aspx>
- The Illinois Department of Public Health posted a new testing resource to its website, “Long Term Care Facility COVID-19 Viral Testing Flow Chart: Interim Guidance.” The flow chart guides facilities through initial, immediate, and repeat testing plans for residents and staff following an outbreak

<https://www.dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/COVID19/LTC%20testing%20flowchart%208.11.2020.pdf>

*LeadingAge Illinois*

- LeadingAge Illinois added new updates from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) to their online COVID-19 resource page. New resources include the latest guidance from IDPH, including question and answer webinar recordings, phased reopening plans, and antigen testing guidelines

<https://leadingageil.org/coronavirus>

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 3. Testing Continued

#### Office of the Governor J.B. Pritzker

- Governor J.B. Pritzker issued a Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation in response to the ongoing COVID-19 situation to assist Illinois agencies in coordinating state and federal resources, including the Strategic National Stockpile of medicines and protective equipment, to support local governments in preparation for any actions that may be necessary related to the potential impact of COVID-19  
<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/gov/Documents/APPROVED%20-%20Coronavirus%20Disaster%20Proc%20WORD.pdf>
- The Governor provides a COVID-19 update briefing daily
- Drive-through testing sites are available throughout the state; all health care workers and residents with symptoms are eligible for testing  
<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/gov/COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx>

#### Indiana (IN)

##### Indiana Health Care Association (IHCA)

- Following guidance issued by the Indiana State Department of Health on October 2, the IHCA released a decision tree guiding nursing homes through resident and staff testing. The decision tree covers decisions regarding test selection, reporting and follow-up testing  
<https://www.ihca.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Decision-Tree.pdf>

##### Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH)

- On October 28, 2020, ISDH released guidelines to help nursing homes interpret COVID-19 antigen test results  
[https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/20\\_COVID%20nursing%20home%20antigen%2010.28.20.pdf](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/20_COVID%20nursing%20home%20antigen%2010.28.20.pdf)
- Clarified which long term care staff members can administer COVID-19 tests. Indiana recommends the anyone administering the tests follow the CDC Interim Guidelines for Collecting, Handling, and Testing Clinical Specimens for COVID-19  
[https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/INSDH/2020/10/29/file\\_attachments/1584512/Who%20Can%20Swab.pdf](https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/INSDH/2020/10/29/file_attachments/1584512/Who%20Can%20Swab.pdf)
- Finalized an electronic lab reporting process by which interested facilities can compile point of care (POC) test results in a spreadsheet and send them to ISDH in a .CSV file format. The process is an optional alternative to replace a facility's need to report POC test results individually through the REDCaps Survey. Interested facilities must work with ISDH to set up a credentialed account for submitting these test results  
<https://www.ihca.org/resource/new-pathway-to-report-poc-test-results-through-electronic-lab-reporting-process>
- Issued antigen screening guidelines to supplement the testing recommendations and requirements provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. ISDH's antigen screening guidelines recommend facilities use CDC-provided county positivity rates to direct testing frequency and ensure accuracy across the state  
[https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN\\_COVID-19%20Antigen%20testing%20and%20Visitation%20Updates%2009.25.20.pdf](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19%20Antigen%20testing%20and%20Visitation%20Updates%2009.25.20.pdf)
- Sponsoring a statewide long term care facility employee COVID-19 testing initiative in partnership with Probari, Inc. Probari will provide communication, support and results reporting for this testing initiative. The testing will be mandatory and will occur from mid-August to early

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 3. Testing Continued

September 2020

<https://www.in.gov/isdh/files/ltcnews552020.pdf>

- Developed an online portal through its contractor, Probari, related to the effort to test all nursing facility staff. Long term care facilities can view test results from tests conducted through state resources or can upload test results from tests conducted through non-state resources  
<https://www.ihca.org/resource/nursing-facility-staff-testing-portal-to-view-results-and-report-tests>
- Developed a partnership with Eli Lilly to use its research laboratories to analyze samples taken in Indiana health care facilities, including nursing homes  
<http://www.wbiw.com/2020/03/19/gov-holcomb-supports-isdh-eli-lilly-covid-19-testing-partnership>
- Released COVID-19 Specimen Collection and Submission Guidelines update on May 18, 2020  
[https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/COVID-19%20specimen%20submission%20and%20collection%20guidelines\\_5.18.20.pdf](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/COVID-19%20specimen%20submission%20and%20collection%20guidelines_5.18.20.pdf)
- Partnered with OptumServe to create 50 additional test sites around the state, bringing total testing capacity up to 100,000 tests per month
- Released an update to the State Health Commissioner's Order, Requirements for Reporting COVID-19 Information to the State Department of Health, on June 1, 2020  
[https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/Dr.%20Box%20-%20Order%20-%20Requirements%20for%20Reporting%20COVID-19%20Info%20to%20ISDH\\_June%201%20202020.pdf](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/Dr.%20Box%20-%20Order%20-%20Requirements%20for%20Reporting%20COVID-19%20Info%20to%20ISDH_June%201%20202020.pdf)
- Released a COVID-19 Active Infection Survey of Indiana Nursing Facility Staff – Long term care update in ISDH newsletter dated June 9, 2020
  - Beginning June 15, in partnership with OptumHealth, ISDH will work with skilled nursing facilities to have all staff in those facilities tested for COVID-19  
<https://www.in.gov/isdh/files/ltcnews412020.pdf>

#### *Office of the Governor Eric Holcomb*

- Beginning November 1, 2020, the Indiana National Guard will help nursing homes with COVID-19 testing and data entry to allow long term care staff more time to directly care for residents. Facilities currently experiencing outbreaks will receive the first priority for assistance  
<https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/post-acute/indiana-national-guard-to-help-combat-covid-19-in-long-term-care-facilities.html>

#### **Iowa (IA)**

##### *Iowa State Hygienic Laboratory (SHL)*

- Nursing homes may order test kits and schedule a free pick-up to deliver the tests to the SHL. A web portal and electronic order forms have streamlined the process  
<https://covidtesting.shl.uiowa.edu>

#### *Office of the Governor Kim Reynolds COVID-19 Response*

- TestIowa.com was launched to help officials target areas of opportunity and to help them make decisions about reopening the state. New testing sites will test an additional 3,000 people a day. First responders and medical personnel are prioritized for testing  
<https://www.testiowa.com/en>



### 3. Testing Continued

#### *MercyOne, Corteva Agriscience*

- MercyOne and Corteva Agriscience announced that they have joined forces to fill the urgent need for COVID-19 test processing, with an initial focus on Iowa. MercyOne health care providers will collect the samples and deliver them to Corteva, where trained Corteva employees will process and assess the samples using the company's sophisticated genetic screening capabilities. Corteva is an industry that tests plant pathogens. It changed its focus during this pandemic to support the demand for COVID-19 testing. This service is available to any nursing home and is offered at a fifty percent discount to MercyOne accountable care organization (ACO) partners. Results are available online or via fax  
<https://www.corteva.com/resources/media-center/mercyone-and-corteva-join-forces-to-increase-covid-19-sample-testing.html>

#### **Kansas (KS)**

##### *Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE)*

- To facilitate a rapid increase in statewide testing for COVID-19, KDHE developed a set of priorities and recommendations with a goal to facilitate a rapid increase in statewide testing for COVID-19 utilizing all testing sites and platforms available  
<https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1294/Kansas-Lab-Testing-Strategy-Priorities--6-10-20>
- KDHE, in partnership with State Epidemiologist Dr. Farah S. Ahmed, developed and distributed a statewide strategy for COVID-19 specimen collection and testing  
<https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1292/KS-Statewide-Strategy-for-COVID-19-Testing>

##### *LeadingAge*

- LeadingAge Kansas added a new Testing: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) resource page to its website. The FAQ page addresses topics related to resident and staff testing, including questions on frequency, baseline and follow-up testing, consent, as well as testing equipment, supplies, and costs  
<https://www.leadingagekansas.org/testing>

#### **Kentucky (KY)**

##### *Office of the Governor Andy Beshear*

- The Governor has asked that all residents and staff at every Kentucky long term care facility be tested for COVID-19. The state is coordinating with Norton Healthcare, a comprehensive health care system operating out of Louisville, to make that possible. The state of Kentucky is paying for the initial facility-wide testing of all long term care facilities, both for staff and residents. Norton Healthcare, in conjunction with the Kentucky Department of Health and local health departments, have initial pre-testing calls with facilities that have been scheduled for testing to determine any barriers, such as personal protective equipment supply, cohorting issues, and staffing, in an effort to create action plans to address needs for improvement. Norton Healthcare is contracted to do onsite testing if needed by the facility. There is an additional call with the facility after testing has occurred that includes all of the above mentioned entities to discuss results and address any issues or needs that arise. Norton Healthcare provides a 24/7 call center for senior congregate care centers to use to ask questions and to conduct follow-up calls with facilities that have had testing to ensure they are still on track  
<https://kyepltc.org/2020/05/13/norton-healthcare-post-acute-statewide-help-line-in->

3. Testing Continued

[collaboration-with-the-ky-department-for-public-health](#)

*State of Kentucky*

- The state of Kentucky is maintaining a website which contains information about COVID-19 testing center locations, rates of infection by state and county, a COVID-19 Hotline (800-722-5725), a link to a daily report of COVID-19 epidemiological data, and a link to the most current long term care update by the state  
<https://govstatus.egov.com/kycovid19>

**Louisiana (LA)**

*Louisiana Department of Health (LDH)*

- Assembled the LDH Nursing Home Facility Toolkit for nursing home support. This toolkit provides state and best practice guidance for personal protective equipment (PPE), information about an option for safely sanitizing N95 masks for re-use, staffing resources, and testing recommendations, along with a variety of pertinent contact numbers  
[http://ldh.la.gov/assets/medicaid/hss/docs/Coronavirus\\_2019/LDH\\_NH\\_Facility\\_Toolkit.pdf](http://ldh.la.gov/assets/medicaid/hss/docs/Coronavirus_2019/LDH_NH_Facility_Toolkit.pdf)
- Announced 11 partners to execute a comprehensive testing plan, supported by feedback from the Governor's Health Equity Task Force, featuring a multi-pronged approach to test vulnerable populations, including congregate settings (such as nursing homes and correctional facilities), communities with insufficient access to testing (including African American and rural communities), and populations that require specialized approaches to testing (including populations with special needs) The Louisiana Nursing Home Association is partnering with the LDH Office of Public Health to test residents and staff in nursing facilities. The state's comprehensive plan includes four goals for the months of May and June:
  - Increase baseline testing by 100,000 tests by the end of May
  - Achieve monthly statewide testing at 4 percent per capita
  - Achieve 2 percent per capita tested in all parishes by the end of May
  - Achieve positivity of 10 percent or less as a state and regionally  
<http://ldh.la.gov/index.cfm/page/3969>

*Louisiana Nursing Home Association*

- Coordinating with Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in Shreveport and Office of the Governor John Bel Edwards to test symptomatic nursing homes residents for COVID-19 in the northwest/Shreveport-Bossier area  
<https://www.lsuhs.edu/coronavirus/about-covid-19>

**Maryland (MD)**

*Maryland Department of Health*

- To facilitate the requirement for nursing home staff and residents to be tested for the presence of COVID-19, the state has provided universal testing at no cost to the nursing facilities. This guidance describes the new one-time registration process that will eliminate the need to provide weekly rosters, including updates on test kit deliveries  
<https://files.constantcontact.com/c16fad48501/0748035f-0d4e-4509-a423-f703c1bef7e4.pdf>

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 3. Testing Continued

#### Michigan (MI)

*Doctors Without Borders, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), Superior Health Quality Alliance*

- Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), an international medical humanitarian organization, is running COVID-19 health education and infection prevention trainings in Michigan nursing homes to help prevent the spread of the virus
- MSF has also begun working in coordination with MDHHS and the Detroit Health Department to quickly identify which nursing home facilities are in need of infection control assistance
- MSF is coordinating with Superior Health Quality Alliance, the Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) for the states of Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. The team is offering activities to help protect residents and staff, including assessments and general guidance to improve infection prevention and control practices, and mental health workshops to address the high level of stress and grief that the front line staff face every day  
[https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-73970\\_71692\\_71696-531944--m\\_2016\\_7,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-73970_71692_71696-531944--m_2016_7,00.html)

#### *Henry Ford Hospital*

- Announced steps being taken to prepare for a “twindemic” (dueling threat of COVID-19 and seasonal influenza) which include:
  - Adding a combined COVID-19 and Influenza A & B test to its testing platforms
  - Expanding daily COVID-19 testing capacity beyond 1,500, with all reported in less than 24 hours
  - Managing supply chains to avoid shortages in items such as swabs, vials and reagents
  - Implementing diversified modes of sample collection to assure supply availability, test sample reliability and use of latest technology and research
  - Investing in new equipment, testing platforms, transport media, reagents and other tools  
<https://www.henryford.com/news/2020/10/preparing-for-a-twindemic-surge-of-covid19-and-seasonal-flu-outbreak>

#### *Henry Ford Health System, Altimetrik, and City of Detroit*

- A collaborative partnership brought more than 20,000 onsite COVID-19 tests to senior living facilities and other vulnerable populations in Detroit  
<https://www.henryford.com/news/2020/07/altimetrik-update>

#### *Michigan Department of Civil Rights*

- Released Michigan COVID-19 Test Sites video in sign language  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d6J5gL4Y7Lw&feature=youtu.be>

#### *Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)*

- MDHHS has released a *Frequently Asked Questions and Resources* document about the Abbot BinaxNOW™ Antigen Test  
[https://www.michigan.gov/documents/coronavirus/BinaxNOW\\_FAQ\\_706167\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/coronavirus/BinaxNOW_FAQ_706167_7.pdf)

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 3. Testing Continued

- On October 19, 2020, MDHHS announced the launch of new partnerships with Walgreens and the Michigan Primary Care Association to offer 77 new, free COVID-19 test sites statewide, bringing the total number of state-supported, free test sites to nearly 100. Residents can find the free test sites on the state's locator. Sites operate in all regions of the state to ensure increased access to free testing  
<https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98158-542612--,00.html>
- MDHHS is issuing guidance requiring the following diagnostic testing practices in skilled nursing facilities:
  - Initial testing of all residents and staff
  - Testing of all new or returning residents during intake and routine quarantine of new residents
  - Testing any resident or staff member with symptoms or suspected exposure
  - Weekly testing of all residents and staff in facilities with any positive cases among residents or staff, until 14 days after the last new positive
  - Weekly testing of all staff in regions of medium risk or higher on the MI Safe Start Map
  - Testing of all staff in Regions 1 through 5 and 7, at least once between the date of this order and July 3, 2020  
[https://www.michigan.gov/documents/coronavirus/2020.06.15\\_-\\_MDHHS\\_Skilled\\_Nursing\\_Facility\\_Testing\\_Guidance\\_-\\_final\\_693925\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/coronavirus/2020.06.15_-_MDHHS_Skilled_Nursing_Facility_Testing_Guidance_-_final_693925_7.pdf)
- On September 15, 2020, the MDHHS announced an expansion of state assistance and reimbursement to support expanded testing in facilities providing room, board, and supervised personal care to 21 or more individuals ages 55 or older. Long term care facilities conducting COVID-19 testing for residents or staff will be eligible for reimbursement of laboratory costs not covered by insurance or by other types of state assistance. MDHHS is also offering state assistance related to testing, staffing, supplies, and laboratory processing  
<https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98158-539704--,00.html>

### Minnesota (MN)

#### *Alzheimer's Association Minnesota-North Dakota*

- Alzheimer's Association Minnesota-North Dakota released a video on YouTube about tips and resources for dementia care during COVID-19 testing  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rZ4txJ9RbBI&feature=youtu.be>

#### *Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)*

- Released a website reference titled, "Reporting Point of Care COVID-19 Test Results through the CDC National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN)"  
[https://www.careproviders.org/members/2020/COVID\\_NHSN\\_POC\\_Test\\_Reporting\\_LTC\\_1026.pdf](https://www.careproviders.org/members/2020/COVID_NHSN_POC_Test_Reporting_LTC_1026.pdf)
- Posted website reference titled, "Using Antigen-based Point-of Care Testing for COVID-19 in Long Term Care Facilities," which provides guidance on: 1) when antigen testing is/isn't appropriate; 2) antigen testing limitations; 3) using results to guide further actions  
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/lcagentest.pdf>

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 3. Testing Continued

- Posted “COVID-19 Testing Recommendations for Long term Care Facilities.” This resource provides information on specimen collection and processing, individual and population based testing, ongoing test strategies, and cohorting and isolation  
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/lctctestrec.pdf>
- MDH created a Road Map for Conducting a COVID-19 Point Prevalence Survey (PPS)  
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/pps0roadmap.pdf>
- MDH created a health care worker consent form for Point Prevalence Testing  
[https://www.careproviders.org/members/2020/COVID\\_TestingStaffConsent.pdf](https://www.careproviders.org/members/2020/COVID_TestingStaffConsent.pdf)
- MDH released the Road Map for Conducting a COVID-19 Point Prevalence Survey (PPS)  
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/pps0roadmap.pdf>
- MDH updated COVID-19 testing recommendations for long term care facilities  
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/lctctestrec.pdf>

#### *Minnesota National Guard*

- The Minnesota National Guard offers ongoing support to the Minnesota Department of Health by staffing and coordinating no-barrier COVID-19 testing locations across the state. Sites are updated at the following link.  
<https://minnesotanationalguard.ng.mil/mnng-covid-19/>

#### *State of Minnesota*

- The state budget agency approved spending \$4,359,230 to purchase up to 1,000,000 swabs. Funding comes from the COVID-19 Minnesota Fund  
<https://mn.gov/mmb/budget/covid19-mn-fund>

### **Mississippi (MS)**

#### *Mississippi Department of Health*

- Developed two-week strategy to test residents and employees in long term care facilities for COVID-19

### **Missouri (MO)**

#### *Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services (DHSS)*

- As reported by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, the Missouri DHSS released its COVID-19 testing strategy to include testing entities, venues, and specific at-risk populations targeted (i.e., nursing homes and health care workers)  
<https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/missouri.pdf>
- To assist with testing, testing kits may be ordered through the state public health laboratory  
<https://ltc.health.mo.gov>

#### *Missouri University Sinclair School of Nursing – Quality Improvement Program for Missouri (QIPMO)*

- Updated a toolkit on October 14 titled, “Nursing Homes Using Point of Care Devices for SARS-COV-2 Testing.” The toolkit provides guidance related to federal testing, Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments, data reporting, laboratory best practices and reordering tests  
<https://nursinghomehelp.org/educational/toolkit-for-nursing-homes-using-point-of-care-devices-for-sars-cov-2-testing-10-5-20/>

### **Montana (MT)**

#### *Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services*

- Developed and is implementing a testing strategy to support broader testing of vulnerable

### 3. Testing Continued

populations, including nursing home and assisted living residents and workers using the state public health laboratory and reference laboratories

#### Nebraska (NE)

##### Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

- Provider Bulletin 20-38, released on October 21, 2020, clarifies Nebraska Medicaid policies regarding COVID-19 testing for residents of Nebraska nursing and long term care facilities and provides updates on recent guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services <http://dhhs.ne.gov/Medicaid%20Provider%20Bulletins/Provider%20Bulletin%2020-38.pdf>
- TestNebraska is a new initiative in partnership with the state leaders and private corporations. Their goal is to dramatically increase the rate of COVID-19 testing so Nebraskans can have better access to testing and help stem the spread of COVID-19 to get us back to normal as quickly as possible. The website is interactive whereby someone can take an assessment. For those who currently have symptoms, have interacted with someone who has already tested positive, or have recently visited places where COVID-19 is more widespread they will be given an appointment and direct them to a drive-through testing location <https://www.testnebraska.com/en>
- The COVID-19 Long-Term Care and Assisted Living Facility Baseline Testing Project is designed to provide baseline testing for all facilities in Nebraska. The goal of Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services is to test all staff for COVID-19 at all Nebraska facilities. If a positive result is found in the staff testing pool, then a secondary testing session is performed to include every resident <http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/COVID-19-Testing.aspx>

#### Nevada (NV)

##### Nevada Department of Health and Human Services

- On the Nevada department's COVID-19 website, "Nevada Health Response," you will find information updated by state's Office of Analytics with the latest statistics on confirmed cases, testing and hospitalizations <https://nvhealthresponse.nv.gov/>

##### Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health

- Nevada issued technical bulletin expanding testing

#### New Jersey (NJ)

##### New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH)

- See the NHDOH Communicable Disease Service webpage for current New Jersey COVID-19 testing information. [https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/covid2019\\_professionals.shtml](https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/covid2019_professionals.shtml)  
Requires that all facility residents and staff be tested no later than May 26, 2020, with additional follow-up testing required no more than one week later <https://covid19.nj.gov/NJfaqs?query=screening+nursing+home+visitors&tabOrder=search.html%2CAASfaqs%2CNJfaqs%2Ccoronavirus%2Cresources%2Clocations%2Cstatus&Facets.filterbox.filter0=%5B%5D>
- The Guidance for COVID-19 Diagnosed and/or Exposed Healthcare Providers resource provides guidance for healthcare providers as to if and when they should be tested for COVID-19 [https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/Guidance\\_for\\_COVID19\\_Diagnosed\\_and](https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/Guidance_for_COVID19_Diagnosed_and)

### 3. Testing Continued

#### [dor Exposed HCP.pdf](#)

- Pharmacists can administer a COVID-19 test without a physician’s order and with no affiliated agreement with a physician, a prior requirement. The pharmacist is responsible for notifying the patient of the test results  
<https://www.pharmacist.com/article/nj-authorizes-18000-pharmacists-state-conduct-coronavirus-tests-without-prescriptions>
- Symptom Tracker uses simple questions to guide people through possible COVID-19 exposures and symptoms and suggested next steps, including testing recommendations  
<https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/nj-information/general-public/where-and-how-do-i-get-tested-for-covid-19-in-new-jersey-who-should-get-testing>
- On March 20, 2020, the New Jersey Department of Health posted an update stating “The New Jersey Department of Health recommends against using any antibody testing to attempt to diagnose current or past infection with SARS-CoV-2. A positive result on a SARS-CoV-2 antibody test should not be viewed as evidence of immunity to or past infection with COVID-19.”  
<https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/nj-information/testing-information/should-i-get-tested-for-covid-19-antibodies-can-antibody-testing-tell-whether-someone-has-been-exposed-to-the-virus-that-causes-covid-19#:~:text=There%20is%20still%20a%20lot,with%20COVID%2D19>
- Collaborative effort between three agencies provides onsite tests to staff, inmates, and residents at New Jersey Department of Corrections facilities and halfway houses  
<https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562020/approved/20200501a.shtml>

#### **New Mexico (NM)**

##### *New Mexico Department of Health*

- Developed a testing strategy in response to Governor recommendations to support broader testing and to prioritize testing of vulnerable populations and health care professionals including:
  - Created strike teams to go to nursing homes to conduct testing when potential or positive COVID-19 cases are seen in residents or staff members
  - Weekly surveillance testing for 15 percent of staff and residents where COVID-19 is not present and weekly 100 percent testing for staff and residents where COVID-19 is present
  - New Mexico COVID-19 website provides a list of drive-through testing sites available throughout the state; all health care workers and residents with symptoms are eligible for testing, as well as a list of vendors who will come onsite to perform COVID-19 testing
  - With the support of the New Mexico hospital and health care association, a testing protocol has been developed for patients prior to transfer from hospitals to long term care facilities

#### **New York (NY)**

##### *New York State Department of Health*

- Newly launched mobile contact tracing app, *COVID Alert NY*, is a voluntary, anonymous, exposure-notification smartphone app. The app will send a user an alert if they were in close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19. Knowing about a potential exposure allows an individual to self-quarantine immediately, get tested, and reduce the potential exposure risk to family, friends, neighbors, co-workers and others. The free mobile app is available to anyone 18 or older who lives, works, or attends college in New York or New Jersey. It is available for download from the Google Play Store or Apple App Store. *COVID Alert NY* is

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 3. Testing Continued

available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Bengali, Korean, Russian and Haitian Creole

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-alert-ny>

- Issued Health Advisory: Respiratory Illness in Nursing Homes and Adult Care Facilities in Areas of Sustained Community Transmission of COVID-19
  - Any febrile acute respiratory illness or clusters of acute respiratory illness (whether febrile or not) in nursing homes and adult care facilities in New York City, Long Island, Westchester County, or Rockland County should be presumed to be COVID-19 unless diagnostic testing reveals otherwise
  - Testing of residents and health care workers with suspected COVID-19 is no longer necessary and should not delay additional infection control actions  
[https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/03/22-doh\\_covid19\\_nh\\_alf\\_ilitest\\_032120.pdf](https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/03/22-doh_covid19_nh_alf_ilitest_032120.pdf)
  - Community Organized Relief Effort (CORE), a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening communities affected by or vulnerable to crisis, has assisted in establishing COVID-19 testing sites in New York City's vulnerable neighborhoods to increase access to COVID-19 testing for high risk populations  
<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>

#### Office of the Governor Andrew Cuomo

- Pharmacists have been added to the list of providers who can administer a COVID-19 test. New York State Medicaid will pay of the test when administered by a pharmacist. Billing instructions are included in the document  
[https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/05/nysmedicaid\\_ffs\\_guidanceforpharmacylabtesting\\_5\\_22\\_20.pdf](https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/05/nysmedicaid_ffs_guidanceforpharmacylabtesting_5_22_20.pdf)

#### State of New York

- As New York City prepares for Phase 1 of reopening on June 8, 2020, 10 additional testing sites will be added to hot spot areas in predominantly low-income and minority communities  
<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>

#### North Carolina (NC)

##### North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS)

- In September, the NCDHHS launched a statewide COVID-19 exposure notification app, "SlowCOVIDNC." The app will help North Carolinians slow the spread of COVID-19 by notifying users who have been in close contact with someone that has tested positive for the virus  
<https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/slowcovidnc>
- To protect nursing home residents and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) issued a Secretarial Order on August 7, 2020 requiring bi-weekly staff testing and announced continued state funding for staff testing through November. NCDHHS is also deploying additional infection control support teams to help long term care facilities prevent and manage outbreaks  
<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/news/press-releases/ncdhhs-pay-ongoing-testing-nursing-home-staff-codifies-requirement-biweekly>
- The online resources are Check My Symptoms, Find My Testing Place, and COVID-19 Community Team Outreach Tool (a password protected site that helps people track their own symptoms)  
<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/news/press-releases/ncdhhs-launches-testing-and-contact-tracing-resources-help-slow-spread-covid-19>



## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 3. Testing Continued

- The Department is targeting additional testing and tracing resources for the nine counties that have some of the highest COVID-19 cases: Mecklenburg, Wake, Durham, Johnston, Alamance, Guilford, Forsyth, Lee, and Duplin
- Statewide Standing Order for COVID-19 Diagnostic Testing and Reporting adopted on July 7, 2020  
<https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/guidance/healthcare/COVID-19-Statewide-Standing-Order.pdf>
- Initiative with CVS to provide all nursing homes in North Carolina COVID-19 diagnostic testing began in July. CVS will manage collection at the facility for baseline of all residents and biweekly testing for staff. This is at no cost to the facility  
<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/news/press-releases/ncdhhs-launches-testing-initiative-nursing-homes>
- On September 2, 2020, the NCDHHS launched a no cost COVID-19 testing program that will cover 100 percent of costs related to COVID-19 testing for eligible uninsured individuals. To qualify for reimbursement, the individual tested must:
  - Live in North Carolina
  - Not be eligible for or enrolled in Medicaid or other health insurance plan
  - Hold U.S. citizenship or other legal immigration status<https://governor.nc.gov/news/north-carolina-launches-no-cost-covid-19-testing-program-uninsured-north-carolinians>
- As of October 7, 2020, more than 100,000 people have downloaded “SlowCOVIDNC,” the official exposure notification app of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. SlowCOVIDNC alerts users when they may have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. The app relies on users to anonymously submit their positive result to notify others. It is free, completely anonymous and does not collect, store or share personal information or location data  
<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/news/press-releases/slowcovidnc-surpasses-100000-downloads-state-health-officials-encourage-north>

#### *United States Department of Health and Human Services*

- United States Department of Health and Human Services is sending rapid point-of-care testing instruments to several North Carolina nursing homes based on priority. Nursing homes are being prioritized by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services through data sources that consider epidemiological hot spots, availability of testing, and COVID-19 rates within nursing homes. The following link provides a download link for a file that provides detail about the device allocation  
<https://data.cms.gov/Special-Programs-Initiatives-COVID-19-Nursing-Home/Nursing-Home-Data-Point-of-Care-Device-Allocation/jbvf-tb74>

#### **North Dakota (ND)**

##### *North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH)*

- NDDoH’s “Vulnerable Population Protection Plan (VP3)” team is adjusting COVID-19 testing and contract tracing strategies to address a recent uptick in confirmed cases among residents and staff at long term care facilities. VP3 will assist in strategic adjustments, including:
  - Prioritizing resident and staff testing and above all other testing, with results returned within 24 hours

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 3. Testing Continued

- Prioritizing contact tracing and follow up with residents and staff
- Using emergency medical technicians to conduct test swabbing and providing 200 nurses from the NDDoH's Operations Center for additional staff coverage  
<https://www.health.nd.gov/news/north-dakota-taking-action-address-increase-covid-19-cases-long-term-care-facilities>

#### North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services (ND DHHS)

- Hiring furloughed health care professionals to assist with the state's COVID-19 response, including contact tracing. In addition, the ND DHHS is enlisting public health graduate students and the National Guard as contact tracers  
[https://bismarcktribune.com/news/local/health/contact-tracing-puts-north-dakota-at-forefront/article\\_ccd6c42a-80ec-5c14-9feb-562ca9130011.html](https://bismarcktribune.com/news/local/health/contact-tracing-puts-north-dakota-at-forefront/article_ccd6c42a-80ec-5c14-9feb-562ca9130011.html)  
<https://www.politico.com/news/2020/04/21/tracking-coronavirus-workforce-does-not-exist-197622>

#### Ohio (OH)

##### Office of the Governor Mike DeWine

- Governor DeWine released new guidelines regarding testing prioritized into three categories of symptomology, with priority one including hospitalized individuals and health care workers  
[https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/OHOOD/2020/05/04/file\\_attachments/1442911/testing%20update%205.4.2020.pdf](https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/OHOOD/2020/05/04/file_attachments/1442911/testing%20update%205.4.2020.pdf)
- On April 25, 2020, Governor DeWine announced new partnerships to secure testing swabs and reagent, thereby substantially increasing access to testing in Ohio  
<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/resources/news-releases-news-you-can-use/Reagent-and-Testing-Swabs-Contact-Tracing-Foster-Care>
- Instituted a Post-Acute Regional Rapid Testing program in Central Ohio, which fields calls from nursing facilities and deploys teams to conduct tests of patients  
<https://www.cleveland.com/coronavirus/2020/05/ohios-strategy-to-fight-coronavirus-at-nursing-homes-deploying-testing-strike-teams-to-affected-facilities.html>

##### Ohio Department of Aging (ODA)

- As part of the Responsible RestartOhio program, the Department of Aging (ODA) published materials on the revised skilled nursing facility (SNF) testing program that took effect October 26, 2020. ODA provides information on the new testing guidelines, including a weekly testing frequency for all counties except those designated as red by CMS, along with availability of state support for all required tests, which will be a combination of BinaxNOW cards and polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests. For BinaxNOW, state support means the cards are free. For PCR, state support means the state arranges for and delivers the tests, plus requires laboratories to bill third-party payers, with state reimbursement for self-insured providers. ODA posted a survey for SNFs to opt-in or opt-out of state support for testing that offers four options: full state support, two kinds of partial state support, and no state support  
<https://aging.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/aging/care-and-living/coronavirus-response/nursing-facility-covid-19-testing-program>

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 3. Testing Continued

#### Ohio Department of Health (ODH)

- The ODH Testing in Nursing Homes website provides clinical checklists for specimen collection of COVID-19 tests, specimen storage and transport  
<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/healthcare-providers-and-local-health-districts/Testing-Nursing-Homes>
- Updated COVID-19 testing guidance that applies to all COVID-19 testing in the state of Ohio. Ohio has modified Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance to meet the specific needs of the state in light of changes in testing availability and evolving knowledge of COVID-19 and its impact on Ohioans  
<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/docs/COVID-19-Testing-Guidance.pdf>

#### Ohio Health Care Association

- The following steps are being implemented to ramp up COVID-19 testing of residents and staff of nursing homes to better prevent the spread of the disease among some of Ohio's most vulnerable residents  
[https://www.ohca.org/docs/documents/5963/Testing in Nursing Homes Final 05.26.2020.pdf](https://www.ohca.org/docs/documents/5963/Testing%20in%20Nursing%20Homes%20Final%2005.26.2020.pdf)

#### University Hospital System - Cleveland

- The Manufacturing Advocacy and Growth Network (MAGNET), in collaboration with University Hospitals and The Ohio Manufacturing Alliance to Fight COVID-19, has developed a new protective testing platform for health care workers assessing the spread of COVID-19. Health care experts at University Hospitals and UH Ventures, its innovation and commercialization division, believe these specially designed barriers could decrease the need for valuable personal protective equipment (PPE), speed the testing process, and better protect front line health care workers  
<https://news.uhhospitals.org/news-releases/magnet-delivers-improved-covid-19-testing-platform-in-partnership-with-university-hospitals-and-the-ohio-manufacturing-alliance.htm>

#### Oklahoma (OK)

##### Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH)

- OSDH, in partnership with Governor Kevin Stitt and federal, state, and private industry leadership, announced the establishment of the Oklahoma Pandemic Center for Innovation and Excellence (OPCIE), the first center of its kind in the nation at the intersection of agriculture, animal and human medicine, food safety, public health testing, and preparedness  
<https://coronavirus.health.ok.gov/articles/gov-stitt-osdh-announce-oklahoma-pandemic-center-innovation-and-excellence-move-public>
- OSDH has expanded contact tracing efforts in Oklahoma City with the launch of a new COVID-19 contact tracing and case investigation call center  
[https://www.ok.gov/triton/modules/newsroom/newsroom\\_article.php?id=150&article\\_id=61062](https://www.ok.gov/triton/modules/newsroom/newsroom_article.php?id=150&article_id=61062)
- OSDH announced the expansion of contact tracing outreach efforts to include text messaging. This functionality will help streamline the process for contact tracers as they reach out to individuals who have been in close contact with infected individuals  
<https://coronavirus.health.ok.gov/articles/oklahoma-contact-tracing-now-includes-text-messages-07242020>

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 3. Testing Continued

- On April 2020, the OSDH launched the web-based COVID-19 symptom tracker. The tracker can be used to register symptoms online and help determine next steps for mitigating the spread of COVID-19  
<https://intake-app-dot-osdh-mms.appspot.com/intake-form>

#### **Pennsylvania (PA)**

*Pennsylvania State Department of Health, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, CVS Health*

- On June 19, 2020, the Department of Health and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency announced a partnership with CVS Health to offer COVID-19 testing services to nursing homes
- The Department of Health uses data sources to provide a three-tiered priority list to CVS to offer free testing services to facilities
- Outreach calls to facility administrators began the week of June 22, 2020. After testing, the laboratories will process the samples and return results in two to three days
- CVS plans to conduct 50,000 tests starting the week of June 29, 2020. Facilities will be broken into one of three groups based on outbreak status:
  - Phase 1: Nursing facilities with first, new or ongoing outbreak
  - Phase 2: Nursing facilities with a history of a resolved outbreak
  - Phase 3: Nursing facilities with no outbreaks.<https://www.media.pa.gov/Pages/Health-Details.aspx?newsid=877>

#### **South Carolina (SC)**

*South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC)*

- Developed a new resource, “Interim Point-of-Care Antigen Testing Guidance for Long term Care Facilities” to help facilities interpret and report test results and provide recommendations for specific testing situations  
[https://scdhec.gov/sites/default/files/media/document/Interim\\_Long\\_Term\\_Care\\_POC\\_Antigen\\_Testing\\_Guidance\\_09.21.2020.pdf](https://scdhec.gov/sites/default/files/media/document/Interim_Long_Term_Care_POC_Antigen_Testing_Guidance_09.21.2020.pdf)
- Developed an on-demand training video: COVID-19 Testing Guidance for Long Term Care Facilities  
<https://www.scdhec.gov/infectious-diseases/viruses/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/longterm-care-facilities-testing-webinar>
- Maintains a web page that provides state and federal resources and updates on changes to infection control policies and guidelines  
<https://scdhec.gov/infectious-diseases/viruses/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/nursing-homes-covid-19>
- Coordinated statewide nursing home testing and education  
<https://www.scdhec.gov/news-releases/south-carolina-test-all-residents-staff-nursing-homes-covid-19>

#### **South Dakota (SD)**

*Tieszan Memorial Home*

- Tieszan Memorial Home used its social media page to inform community and resident's families about COVID 19 mass testing. The intent was for families and residents’ representatives to have an opportunity to read the information prior to the personal call to obtain consent for the testing. This provided time for representatives to gather any questions they might have, ultimately contributing to a quicker process in obtaining consents

3. Testing Continued

**Tennessee (TN)**

*The Middle Tennessee Regional Healthcare Quality Improvement Collaborative Communication Coalition*

- The Middle Tennessee Regional Healthcare Quality Improvement Collaborative Communication Coalition, a coalition working with Alliant Health Services (AHS), formed a task force that meets every other Thursday with representation from multiple counties in the Nashville area. Nursing homes, assisted living centers, the Mayor's office, and the Tennessee Department of Health are represented. They are working together to coordinate personal protective equipment, testing, and National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) needs, such as assistance needed for enrollment and/or reporting in the COVID-19 module. Providers in the area network to invite other providers. A senior quality advisor at AHS, Julie Clark, [julie.clark@allianthealth.org](mailto:julie.clark@allianthealth.org), is available to assist connection with this coalition

*United States Department of Health and Human Services*

- HHS is sending rapid point of care testing instruments to several Tennessee nursing homes based on priority. Nursing homes are being prioritized by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services through data sources that consider epidemiological hot spots, availability of testing, and COVID-19 rates within nursing homes. The following link provides a downloadable file with details about the device allocation  
<https://data.cms.gov/Special-Programs-Initiatives-COVID-19-Nursing-Home/Nursing-Home-Data-Point-of-Care-Device-Allocation/jbvf-tb74>

**Texas (TX)**

*Office of the Governor Greg Abbott*

- On April 27, 2020, Governor Abbott released the Texans Helping Texans: The Governor's Report to Open Texas. A key component of this plan is preventing the spread of COVID-19 cases in long term care facilities. The Report outlines the expectation that any nursing home with one case of COVID-19 should receive immediate testing for all residents and staff to immediately quantify the extent of infection. On May 11, 2020, the Governor strengthened this effort by directing that Texas state agencies test 100 percent of residents and staff in Texas nursing homes

*Office of the Texas Governor Greg Abbott and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*

- Federal support of Community Based Testing Sites in Dallas and Houston has been extended through July 31, 2020  
<https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/governor-abbott-announces-additional-extension-of-federally-supported-covid-19-testing-sites-in-texas>

*Texas Division of Emergency Management and Omnicare*

- Omnicare, a CVS Health company, is partnering with the Texas Division of Emergency Management to provide COVID-19 point-of-care testing for assisted living facilities and nursing homes throughout the state. This partnership will provide on-site testing and results within 24 to 48 hours for facility staff in nursing facilities.  
<https://hhs.texas.gov/about-hhs/communications-events/news/2020/07/clarification-about-free-covid-19-testing-initiative-nfs-alfs>

*Texas Health and Human Services Commission*

- Texas is distributing test kits to certain nursing facilities located in counties where the COVID-19

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 3. Testing Continued

positivity rate is greater than 10 percent

<https://hhs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/services/health/coronavirus-covid-19/attestation-free-covid-19-test-kits.pdf>

- Long-term Care Regulatory Provider Letter PL 20-46, released on October 21, 2020, outlines responsibilities related to reporting COVID-19 test results for long term care providers conducting point-of-care (POC) antigen tests within their facilities. This letter is not intended for use by providers that do not conduct COVID-19 POC tests within their facilities.  
<https://apps.hhs.texas.gov/providers/communications/2020/letters/PL2020-46.pdf>

### Utah (UT)

#### State of Utah

- There are a number of organizations working to support nursing homes to implement and spread COVID-19 state actions
- State actions identified include:
  - Mobile unit outreach testing to all state facilities, with special emphasis on rural long term care facilities
  - Mobile testing providers bring their own personal protective equipment to perform tests, and they also guide the facility in their response to persons under investigation (PUI) cases
- With the support of the hospital and health care associations, a testing protocol has been developed for patients prior to transfer from hospitals to long term care facilities
- This has helped nursing homes ease resistance to accepting new patients in the absence of testing

#### Utah State Department of Health

- Utah has a new campaign called “Crush the Curve” that demonstrates the power we have when we work together. This new initiative is sponsored through Silicon Slopes in partnership with state leaders and private corporations, with the goal to dramatically increase the rate of COVID-19 testing to help the state of Utah get “back to normal” as quickly as possible  
<https://www.testutah.com/en>

### Vermont (VT)

#### Vermont Department of Health

- Universal Testing at Facilities: When a person tests positive, testing is offered to all staff and residents  
<https://www.healthvermont.gov/response/coronavirus-covid-19/long-term-care-and-group-living-settings>

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 3. Testing Continued

- Testing to Guide Isolation and Cohorting: Testing patients and health care personnel with rapid turn-around times can guide isolation or cohorting strategies. Facilities with no new COVID-19 cases suggesting transmission among residents or staff are recommended to test all new resident admissions (and upon implementation, any resident who has been admitted in the last 14 days), at the time of admission and at days 3, 7, 10 and 13. Residents who leave and return to the facility for any reason should follow this testing guidance. Facilities with new COVID-19 cases among residents or staff should conduct testing of all residents and staff in facility (point prevalence survey [PPS]) as soon as a new case is identified (if insufficient testing capacity for entire facility, restrict PPS to involved unit or units)  
[https://dail.vermont.gov/sites/dail/files//documents/Enhanced\\_SNF\\_Interventions\\_Facilities-2020-05-11.pdf](https://dail.vermont.gov/sites/dail/files//documents/Enhanced_SNF_Interventions_Facilities-2020-05-11.pdf)

#### Virginia (VA)

##### Virginia Department of Health (VDH)

- On November 4, 2020, VDH released interim COVID-19 antigen testing recommendations to provide guidance on the use of antigen testing, including examples of when antigen testing could be considered, information on available rapid point-of-care antigen tests, and instructions for test result evaluation and reporting  
<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/antigen-testing-recommendations>
- Launched a new external dashboard, “COVID-19 PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) Test Positivity Rates by Locality.” The dashboard is updated every Monday with county positivity rates and may be utilized by nursing homes to determine testing frequency  
<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/health-professionals/virginia-long-term-care-task-force/covid-19-in-virginia-pcr-positivity-rates>
- VDH released a portal for reporting point of care COVID-19 test results. The portal will assist testing sites in satisfying the CARES Act requirement to report every diagnostic and screening test performed for the detection of SARS-CoV-2 or to diagnose a possible case of COVID-19  
<https://apps.vdh.virginia.gov/pocreporting/login/login.aspx>
- The Virginia National Guard has partnered with the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) as a resource to increase COVID-19 testing in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The National Guard will be conducting Point Prevalence Surveys for both nursing centers and assisted living facilities  
[https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/182/2020/04/PPS-Guidance-for-LTCF\\_Congregated-Settings-FINAL-4-28-2020.pdf](https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/182/2020/04/PPS-Guidance-for-LTCF_Congregated-Settings-FINAL-4-28-2020.pdf)

##### Virginia Health Care Association – Virginia Center for Assisted Living (VHCA-VCAL)

- On September 9, 2020, the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) updated their algorithm for COVID-19 molecular testing to include COVID-19 antigen testing. This update is designed to help health care personnel determine who to test, testing options, and what recommendations to provide based on the results
- <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/182/2020/05/COVID-19-Testing-Algorithm.pdf>

#### Washington (WA)

##### Washington State Department of Health

- On August 12, 2020, the Washington State Department of Health released notice of changes for the way they will report negative COVID-19 test results. The state will begin using the total number of tests completed, a change from the current reporting, which reflects the total

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 3. Testing Continued

number of unique individuals tested

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Newsroom/Articles/ID/1331/Washington-state-changes-negative-test-reporting-for-COVID-19>

#### **Wisconsin (WI)**

##### *LeadingAge Wisconsin*

- Updated their online batch entry spreadsheet, “Antigen Test Results Reporting,” to reflect edits that reduce provider time with data entry. The spreadsheet is available in the Nursing Home heading on the website’s COVID-19 resource page. At the link below, scroll to find the Nursing Home heading where you can find the download link.

<https://leadingagewi.org/members-subscribers/coronavirus-covid-19-information-resources>

##### *Wisconsin Department of Health Services (WDHS)*

- Issued a standing order intended to make it easier for organizations with point-of-care (POC) tests to use these supplies efficiently, effectively, and safely  
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/dph/wi-standingorder-102020.pdf>
- Coordinating with the Bureau of Nursing Home Resident Care (BNHRC), Division of Quality Assurance (DQA), to identify facilities to connect with new testing labs and to provide bi-weekly staff testing. Facilities will be selected based on size, location, outbreak status and community disease burden to determine the initial lab assignments. The primary focus of the initial lab assignments is to support a smooth transition and adequate turnaround times for test results  
<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/WIDHS/bulletins/2994c21>
- Expanded information for providers on ordering/securing test supplies, process, and procedures  
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/providers.htm>



## 4. WORKFORCE AND STAFFING

### Alabama (AL)

*Office of the Lieutenant Governor Will Ainsworth, Business Council of Alabama, Chamber of Commerce Association of Alabama, AlabamaWorks!, The Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama, Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce, Southeast AlabamaWorks!, West AlabamaWorks!*

- Alabama has created an online personal protective equipment (PPE), employment, and material resource guide for health care providers to find available supplies, disinfectants, PPE, employer/employee guidance, and more external pertinent links  
<https://tuscaloosachamber.com/business-toolkit>

### Arizona (AZ)

*Office of the Governor Doug Ducey*

- Executive Orders were issued to:
  - Extend certain professional licenses expiring between March 1, 2020 and September 1, 2020 and defer continuing education requirements  
<https://azgovernor.gov/governor/news/2020/03/governor-ducey-issues-executive-order-expand-licensing-opportunities>
  - Extend Good Samaritan protections for front line workers responding to the COVID-19 pandemic  
<https://azgovernor.gov/governor/news/2020/04/new-order-provides-good-samaritan-protections-frontline-workers-responding>

### California (CA)

*California Department of Public Health*

- Provided resources for skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) on preventing, detecting, and preparing for COVID-19 with a toolkit titled “Preparing for COVID-19 in California Skilled Nursing Facilities”  
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/CDPH%20Document%20Library/AFL-20-25-Attachment-01-SNF-Checklist.pdf>

*County of Santa Clara Emergency Operations Center*

- Organized local resources to meet projected needs for skilled nursing facilities (SNFs)
- Distributed a survey for residents to document skills and match them with specific nursing home needs, such as janitorial services and social work  
<https://www.sccgov.org/sites/covid19/Pages/i-can-help.aspx>

*LeadingAge California*

- LeadingAge California, with funding support from Archstone Foundation, was awarded the COVID-19 Emergency Response Grant in May 2020 that will fund the development of new training modules for Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) to provide direct care to COVID-19 patients, on subjects such as how to properly remove a mask and gown or the correct way to wash your hands. In addition to the new training videos, a recruitment video aimed at attracting more people to become CNAs will also be created  
<https://archstone.org/blog/view/leadingage-california-bolsters-training-recruitment-of-cnas-during-pandemic>

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 4. Workforce and Staffing Continued

#### *Los Angeles County Emergency Operations Center*

- Developed exemptions for emergency medical technicians (EMTs) to function as nurses' aides to increase the staffing at the five impacted skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) in the county
- Engaged the National Guard to provide ancillary support in the SNFs with COVID-19  
[https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/CALACOUNTY/2020/04/22/file\\_attachments/1433947/COVID-19%20Update\\_04.22.20.pdf](https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/CALACOUNTY/2020/04/22/file_attachments/1433947/COVID-19%20Update_04.22.20.pdf)

#### **Delaware (DE)**

##### *Delaware Health Care Facilities Association*

- Temporary nursing aide training allows staffing to increase and may be able to recruit later, giving unemployed workers a job  
<https://www.dhcfa.org>

##### *Office of the Governor John Carney*

- Removed restrictions on out-of-state health care workers to assist in COVID-19 response
- This allowed individuals who previously held a license to practice medicine in any United States jurisdiction to provide health care services on a volunteer basis in Delaware when authorized by the Public Health Authority
- The provider must be appropriately trained, and their license must have been in good standing for a five-year period before it expired or lapsed  
<https://news.delaware.gov/2020/04/23/governor-carney-removes-restrictions-on-out-of-state-health-care-workers-to-assist-in-covid-19-response>

#### **District of Columbia (DC)**

##### *Government of District of Columbia*

- Emergency Childcare Initiative: As part of the District of Columbia Government's response, the Office of the State Superintendent of Education is partnering with licensed child care providers to offer emergency care for the children of health care professionals. Health care professionals who currently hold a childcare voucher will continue to have their child care costs covered and will not be charged a copay  
[https://mcusercontent.com/67e7a773996f97d87b3be7633/files/6c6dd6d1-9680-4a1d-b3af-d2a3304222c2/COVID\\_Flyer\\_2020.01.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/67e7a773996f97d87b3be7633/files/6c6dd6d1-9680-4a1d-b3af-d2a3304222c2/COVID_Flyer_2020.01.pdf)

#### **Florida (FL)**

##### *Florida Department of Health*

- Extended health care practitioner licensure to avoid lapse and allowed reactivation of licensure for those whose license lapsed in the last two years

##### *Office of the Governor Ron DeSantis*

- Approved a temporary personal care attendant (PCA) program requested by the Florida Health Care Association and Florida LeadingAge to allow on-the-job training program for nursing assistants to work in nursing homes. The program provides an eight-hour initial training followed by supervised on-the-job training and allows the PCA to perform additional duties  
<http://www.floridahealth.gov/newsroom/2020/04/042020-1845-covid19.pr.html>

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 4. Workforce and Staffing Continued

#### Georgia (GA)

##### *Georgia Association of Nurses in Long Term Care*

- Continued supportive efforts of the Georgia Health Care Association for updates to nursing staff and encouraged centers to take advantage of applicable waivers to reduce staffing burdens  
<https://www.ghca.info/ganltc>

##### *Georgia Healthcare Facility Regulation Department*

- Worked closely with the Georgia Department of Public Health, the Georgia Health Care Association (GHCA), and the National Guard to stay abreast of COVID-19 activity and the impact on centers, while remaining vigilant for highest quality of care for the residents in Georgia
- Provided website updates with changes in rules/regulations, contact information and nurse aide program temporary waiver for staffing
- Surveyors have been connecting with long term care organizations collecting information related to COVID-19 and coordinating with the Georgia National Guard to develop a system for collection of COVID-19 data
- The data collection platform will update the public daily at 2 PM, replacing a previous report from the Office of the Governor Brian Kemp  
<https://dch.georgia.gov/divisionsoffices/healthcare-facility-regulation>

##### *LeadingAge*

- Developed and shared an 1135 Nursing Home Blanket Waiver Chart  
[https://leadingageil.new-media-release.com/2020/coronavirus/assets/NursingHome\\_BlanketWaiver\\_HighLevel\\_May1\\_Final.pdf](https://leadingageil.new-media-release.com/2020/coronavirus/assets/NursingHome_BlanketWaiver_HighLevel_May1_Final.pdf)
- Worked to get temporary nursing assistants (TNAs) during emergency to alleviate shortages of certified nursing assistants (CNAs)

#### Hawaii (HI)

##### *University of Hawaii Department of Geriatrics, Healthcare Association of Hawaii*

- Long term care (LTC) COVID-19 Project Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO) series included topics such as COVID-19 testing, planning for dementia residents, symptom management, and readiness in care homes and congregate settings  
<https://geriatrics.jabsom.hawaii.edu/geriatrics>  
<https://geriatrics.jabsom.hawaii.edu/ltss>

#### Illinois (IL)

##### *American Medical Association*

- Illinois is one of eight states to partner with the American Medical Association (AMA) on volunteer health care professionals
- The AMA Guide includes information for physicians and health care professionals to support communities severely impacted by COVID-19. It tells how and where to volunteer—and things to consider before registering. For state agencies and institutions, the guide includes information on third-party organizations that can identify and match volunteers accordingly, as well as resources for credentialing in an emergency  
<https://www.ama-assn.org/delivering-care/public-health/covid-19-volunteer-guide-health-care-professionals>

#### 4. Workforce and Staffing Continued

##### Illinois Health Care Association (IHCA)

- Illinois Health Care Association (IHCA) is supporting members' use of Temporary Nursing Assistant Training and working with the Illinois Department of Public Health to extend the training past the September 18, 2020 deadline  
<https://www.ihca.com/tna>

##### Indiana (IN)

###### Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH)

- Posted on October 19, 2020, ISDH developed health workforce related resources that are available to all long term care providers should an urgent or emergency need for additional workers arise. Established partnership with the Bowen Center for Health Workforce Research and Policy to manage the Indiana Health Care Reserve Workforce. Requests for additional health care workers can be submitted through a request form hosted on the State's coronavirus home page. All submissions are responded to within 24 hours and include a list of reserve workforce members available within the community  
<https://www.ihca.org/resource/indiana-health-care-reserve-workforce>
- On August 18, 2020, ISDH released an update to the COVID-19 Long Term Care (LTC) Facility Infection Control Guidance Standard Operating Procedure to reflect changes to return to work guidance and direction for direct-care providers  
[https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN\\_COVID-19%20LTC%20checklist%2008.18.20.pdf](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19%20LTC%20checklist%2008.18.20.pdf)
- On August 18, 2020, ISDH released updates to the COVID-19 Infection Prevention Toolkit, including guidance on return to work as well as direction for direct-care providers  
[https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN\\_COVID-19%20IP%20Toolkit%20ISDH\\_8.24.2020.pdf](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19%20IP%20Toolkit%20ISDH_8.24.2020.pdf)
- On August 17, 2020, ISDH released an update to Guidance for Out-of-Hospital Facilities to reflect changes in criteria for return to work for health care personnel infected with COVID-19  
[https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN\\_COVID-19\\_out\\_of\\_hospital\\_08.17.20.pdf](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19_out_of_hospital_08.17.20.pdf)
- Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb initiated early actions Executive Orders, including authorization of temporary personal care attendant positions and training for nursing homes  
<https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/B%20-%20CCF%20PCA%20Order%20Full%20Signed.pdf>
- A waiver issued guidance for creating COVID-19 long term care facilities
- Facility staffing requirements have been relaxed and options expanded
- Reimbursement rates for COVID-19 facilities were enhanced by 50 percent
- Liability protection has been provided
- Data support helps hospitals identify post-acute COVID-19 facilities for transfer
- Infection control teams train facilities on COVID-19 testing
- Provision of all necessary personal protective equipment (PPE) has been offered to priority facilities, similar to hospitals
- An online workforce survey is available with a specific area to declare interest in working in long-term care. This is coupled with an Indiana health care workforce needs request form  
[https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN\\_COVID-19%20State%20Requirements%20and%20Guidance%20for%20COVID%20dedicated%20faciliti...pdf](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19%20State%20Requirements%20and%20Guidance%20for%20COVID%20dedicated%20faciliti...pdf)
- ISDH announced extension of existing emergency orders for comprehensive care facilities and residential care facilities - temporary blanket waivers are extended to mid-September 2020  
<https://www.in.gov/isdh/files/ltcnews432020.pdf>

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 4. Workforce and Staffing Continued

- On September 17, 2020, the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) renewed Emergency Orders issued in March and April granting Temporary Blanket Waivers for comprehensive care facilities and residential care facilities. The orders include extending the temporary blanket waiver for transfers and discharges, allowing nursing homes to transfer/discharge residents as part of an emergency response and containment measures  
<https://www.ihca.org/resource/isdh-renews-blanket-waivers-for-comprehensive-and-residential-care-facilities>
- On October 20, 2020, the Indiana Department of Health released a letter that clarifies the requirements for return to work  
[https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/INSDH/2020/10/20/file\\_attachments/1575565/Return%20to%20work%20letter%2010.20.20.pdf](https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/INSDH/2020/10/20/file_attachments/1575565/Return%20to%20work%20letter%2010.20.20.pdf)
- On October 27, 2020, the Indiana Department of Health released an Employee Screening Tool for nursing homes to use in screening employees on whether they are “fit for duty”  
<https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/Employee%20Screening%20for%20Fit%20for%20Duty%20form%2010-20-20.pdf>

#### *State of Indiana, Office of Governor Eric Holcomb*

- Signed an executive order on September 29 extending the temporary licensing of health care workers who do not currently hold an active license.  
<https://www.in.gov/gov/files/Executive%20Order%2020-45%20Renewal%20and%20Recission%20of%20Certain%20Directives.pdf>

#### **Iowa (IA)**

##### *Meyer Pharmacy*

- Meyer Pharmacy has a respiratory therapist on staff and is performing mask fit training for local nursing home staff  
<https://meyerpharmacy.com/pharmacy/covid-19>

##### *University of Iowa*

- The National Nursing Home Social Work Network is a geriatric workforce enhancement program funded by grants from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to develop a health care workforce that maximizes patient safety and engagement and to improve health outcomes for older adults. Much of its work is focused on long term care
- The program offers a weekly online support group meeting and multiple online resources for advance care planning, ethical decisions, and how to prepare and support residents, staff, families, and themselves  
<https://clas.uiowa.edu/socialwork/nursing-home/national-nursing-home-social-work-network>

#### **Kansas (KS)**

##### *Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS)*

- Issued a policy allowing hours worked as a certified nursing assistant (CAN) Trainee II to count for the 25 hours of hands-on training needed to complete the CNA training course. This allows facilities to expedite the process for training CNAs and build workforce more quickly  
[https://www.kdads.ks.gov/docs/default-source/covid-19/hoc/cna-guidance-3-24-2020.pdf?sfvrsn=a17502ee\\_2](https://www.kdads.ks.gov/docs/default-source/covid-19/hoc/cna-guidance-3-24-2020.pdf?sfvrsn=a17502ee_2)
- KDADS announced hiring of COVID-19 long term supports and services (LTSS) liaison - working half-time to assist homes with:
  - LTSS technical assistance for local public health and emergency management, including

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 4. Workforce and Staffing Continued

education on the characteristics and needs of LTSS providers like facility and community-based providers

- Facilitating cross-agency partnership between state and local organizations, including review and reporting at the state level on best practices
- Identifying future priority issues and preparedness needs for LTSS consumers and providers
- Serving as an additional channel of communication between state and local officials and stakeholders

[https://www.kdads.ks.gov/required/AllNewsItems/2020/05/12/kdads-receives-more-than-\\$6.7-million-in-additional-cares-act-funding-to-support-older-americans-act-programs](https://www.kdads.ks.gov/required/AllNewsItems/2020/05/12/kdads-receives-more-than-$6.7-million-in-additional-cares-act-funding-to-support-older-americans-act-programs)

### Louisiana (LA)

#### Louisiana Department of Health (LDH)

- Launched a pilot in response to COVID-19 on April 22, 2020 to help facilities with acute health care staffing shortages fill those vacancies with qualified candidates who are otherwise out of work
- Launched Louisiana Health Work Connect pilot in Baton Rouge with plans for a subsequent statewide rollout. Any qualified nursing home or hospital in the Baton Rouge area can participate in the program. Interested health care workers submit their information and qualifications using a form. Participating health care facilities regularly update the Department on their staffing needs
- The Department provides a list of candidates to facilities tailored to their staffing needs. A participating facility then contacts a health care worker to begin the hiring process  
<https://healthworkconnect.la.gov>
- Assembled the LDH Nursing Home Facility Toolkit for nursing home support. This toolkit provides state and best practice guidance for personal protective equipment (PPE), information about an option for safely sanitizing N95 masks for re-use, staffing resources, and testing recommendations, along with a variety of pertinent contact numbers  
[http://ldh.la.gov/assets/medicaid/hss/docs/Coronavirus\\_2019/LDH\\_NH\\_Facility\\_Toolkit.pdf](http://ldh.la.gov/assets/medicaid/hss/docs/Coronavirus_2019/LDH_NH_Facility_Toolkit.pdf)
- Rolled out the Louisiana Get Back to Work Safely Tool on June 10, 2020. The survey helps employees identify their risks from COVID-19 and provides recommendations for staying healthy  
<https://ldhcovid19.typeform.com/to/YWNTvZ>

### Maine (ME)

#### Maine Department of Health and Human Services

- Maine Department of Health and Human Services enacted the Extraordinary Circumstance Allowance which boosts payments to congregate care facilities in response to COVID-19
- MaineCare will pay extra costs associated with COVID-19, including staffing, supplies, and personal protective equipment with \$10.1 million in state and federal funds to support facilities  
<https://www.maine.gov/tools/whatsnew/index.php?topic=DHS+Press+Releases&id=2410756&v=article>

4. Workforce and Staffing Continued

**Maryland (MD)**

*FutureCare Nursing Homes*

- Employee support videos by Dr. William Mansbach provide tips on managing stress during the COVID-19 pandemic  
<https://futurecare.com/employeesupport>

*Health Facilities Association of Maryland*

- David Combs, a photographer, composer, and producer of instrumental music, is offering free access to many of his music videos via YouTube. His soothing and relaxing music has proven to play a constructive role in reducing the stress and anxiety in the current stressful environment of isolation in health care facilities  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrvuWa0VW2Umc5NgQyUQKMg>

**Massachusetts (MA)**

*Mass.gov*

- Created a Rapid Response Clinical Team & Staff Resource on April 15, 2020 to provide short-term support for facilities with high volume of cases or with critical staffing needs
- Enacted a 10 percent MassHealth rate increase (approximately \$50 million) across the board for all nursing facilities
- A long term care portal matches individuals that have registered through the portal with the staffing requests submitted by facilities (with a \$1,000 sign on bonus)  
<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-updates-and-information>

**Michigan (MI)**

*Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)*

- On October 19, 2020, MDHHS announced a \$3.9 million project funded through the CARES Act that offers retention payment to newly hired health care workers. The goal is to hire/retain at least 2,000 workers by year end. Workers could receive up to \$1,600 if they complete training and 300 hours of work by December 30, 2020  
<https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98158-542668--,00.html>
- MDHHS will be offering Rapid Response Staffing Resources in select counties to assist long term care facilities experiencing staffing shortages. Rapid Response Staffing Resources will be available to nursing homes, assisted living centers, homes for the aged, and adult foster care homes
  - Facilities facing shortages can request a maximum of one registered nurse and four certified nursing assistance/resident care assistants per shift
  - MDHHS will provide up to a total of 72 consecutive hours of staffing coverage, supplied by 22nd Century Technologies, Inc. (TSCTI)  
[https://www.michigan.gov/documents/coronavirus/Rapid\\_Response\\_Staffing\\_Guidance\\_for\\_LTC\\_Facilities\\_Final\\_695568\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/coronavirus/Rapid_Response_Staffing_Guidance_for_LTC_Facilities_Final_695568_7.pdf)
- On September 15, 2020 MDHHS expanded its rapid response staffing program aiding long term care facilities with staffing shortages. The newly expanded program offers up to 120 hours of staffing assistance to facilities across the state. New staffing options have also been added to include licensed practical nurses, social workers, direct care workers, dietary aides, dietary cooks, and environmental services staff  
<https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98158-539674--,00.html>

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 4. Workforce and Staffing Continued

#### *Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity*

- Offers a one-stop shop for workplace health promotion that gives employers resources to create a healthy work environment. There is a breakout by industry, including healthcare.  
<https://www.michigan.gov/leo/0,5863,7-336-100207---,00.html>

#### *State of Michigan, Office of Governor Gretchen Whitmer*

- On September 10, 2020 Governor Whitmer's office announced a new program that offers essential, frontline workers a tuition-free path to community college. The "Futures for Frontliners" program is available to adult workers who provided essential services during statewide Stay Home, Safe Orders (between April to June 2020). This first in the nation program creates a tuition-free path for Michigan adults without college degrees or high school diplomas to gain the skills necessary to obtain high-demand, high-wage careers. In addition to the medical field, funding is available to essential workers in manufacturing, nursing homes, grocery stores, sanitation, delivery, retail and more  
<https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98158-539206--,00.html>

#### *Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Michigan Medicine*

- The multi-institutional collaborative is developing tools to support hospitals, nursing homes, and other medical institutions in projecting front-line workforce needs, re-deploying clinical teams, and protecting the health and well-being of providers
- Tools include a hospital staffing needs calculator, staffing needs projections, COVID-19 response planner, staffing surveys and allocation tools, daily personal protective equipment usage calculator, provider care and resources, and educational resources  
<https://www.covidstaffing.org>

#### *Wayne State University Institute of Gerontology*

- Researchers at Wayne State University and Eastern Michigan University are studying the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on front line health care workers  
<https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Covid-19---Healthcare-Wellness-Survey.html?soid=1109914538426&aid=zVaADxY48ew>

### **Minnesota (MN)**

#### *Care Providers of Minnesota*

- Established a long term care (LTC) support line for LTC workers and family members who need to talk with someone about difficult situations during the COVID-19 pandemic  
<https://www.careproviders.org/members/2020/LTCSupportLineFlyer.pdf>

#### *LeadingAge Minnesota*

- A free COVID-19 Staff Hotline for Coping & Support is open to any staff member to schedule a confidential 20-minute coaching call. In this pilot program operating through October 2, 2020, a professionally trained coach will listen to a caller's concerns and help create a coping roadmap to make healthy choices. The project is funded by LeadingAge Minnesota Foundation (LAMF) through a statewide grant from the Minnesota Department of Human Services  
[https://www.leadingagemn.org/assets/docs/Final\\_COVID\\_Staff\\_Hotline\\_Toolkit\\_CoverSheet\\_-\\_082420.pdf](https://www.leadingagemn.org/assets/docs/Final_COVID_Staff_Hotline_Toolkit_CoverSheet_-_082420.pdf)



## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 4. Workforce and Staffing Continued

#### Minnesota Department of Health

- As of October 22, 2020, an updated version of the “COVID-19 Recommendations for Health Care Workers” document on the MDH website. The updated document includes recommendations for workers who have had: 1) a high-risk workplace exposure to COVID-19; and 2) household, intimate or close community contacts with confirmed or suspected COVID19.  
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/hcwrecs.pdf>
- Developed video about self-care and applying psychological first aid for COVID-19 responders  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m8vEFrQr9co&feature=youtu.be>
- Developed Best Practices for Masks: Considerations for People with Disabilities and Special Health Needs  
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/guidemasks.pdf>

#### National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Minnesota

- The NAMI Minnesota, in collaboration with McCubbin Training and LeadingAge Minnesota, are offering free, online training to help staff and caregivers develop personal strategies for managing stress and practicing self-care  
[https://rise.articulate.com/share/RcMYbAt9S1DRYjwB7c1H3gi0PHAg4AC#/#/](https://rise.articulate.com/share/RcMYbAt9S1DRYjwB7c1H3gi0PHAg4AC#/)

#### Statewide Health Care Coordination Center

- Partnered with stakeholders, such as the Board of Nursing, to recruit nursing staff to work in long term care facilities that are not able to fully staff due to staff illness

## Missouri (MO)

#### St. Louis County Department of Public Health

- Established a High Risk Task Force Team composed of volunteer doctors and registered nurses. Team members serve as liaisons between long term care facilities and the Department of Public Health. Working remotely, team members answer questions, meet informational needs and monitor each facility’s supply of personal protective equipment (PPE)
- In some cases, the task force has worked with the St. Louis County Police’s Office of Emergency Management to provide PPE to facilities that lack adequate supplies  
<https://www.stlcorona.com/news/dph-covid-19-update-4232020>

#### University of Missouri Sinclair School of Nursing's Quality Improvement Program for Missouri (QIPMO)

- QIPMO is a cooperative service between the University of Missouri Sinclair School of Nursing and the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. It is composed of gerontological nurses who provide education on best practices to improve care delivery and outcomes for nursing home residents
- QIPMO hosts nursing home leadership support group meetings from which the best practices emerged from participating homes:
  - Alternating staff in teams (one team of 7-10, including housekeeping, dietary, nursing, and one from nursing administration) work 5-7 days on, then 5-7 days off
  - Staff team in 12-hour shifts—again, all staff—this keeps the consistency of patients to staff and allows the staff real rest time, which otherwise they are not getting
  - COVID-19-specific teams in 12-hour rotations
  - Cross-training of staff for housekeeping tasks in the COVID-19 unit to minimize the number of people in the unit

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 4. Workforce and Staffing Continued

- Place for staff to change and keep their street clothes, perhaps even shower so it reduces the spread and reduces staff anxiety about bringing it out of the building  
<https://nursinghomehelp.org/qipmo-program>

#### Montana (MT)

##### *Montana Healthcare Mutual Aid System (MHMAS)*

- MHMAS is the emergency system for the advance registration of volunteer health professionals for the state of Montana. It serves as the system for identifying, activating, and deploying volunteers during disasters, and functions as a communication tool to provide volunteers with information about training and exercises  
<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/phep/mhmas>

#### Nebraska (NE)

##### *The National Emerging Special Pathogen Training and Education Center (NETEC)*

- NETEC developed a webinar to support health care workers in managing the unique challenges in a pandemic and the elements of a comprehensive “care of the caregiver” strategy, including peer support, building resilience, streamlined behavioral health referrals, preventing moral injury, supporting health care worker families, and leadership. The webinar includes downloadable resources to implement a program  
<https://www.nebraskamed.com/for-providers/covid19/workforce-behavioral-health-support>

##### *Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NDHHS)*

NDHHS posted November and December 2020 public hearing dates for review and discussion of proposed regulation changes which include nursing facilities and nursing programs  
<http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Upcoming-Public-Hearings.aspx>

- On November 2, 2020, Provider Bulletin 20-42 was issued to notify Nursing and Assisted Living Facilities that participate in Nebraska’s Medicaid program of a temporary increase in Per Diem rates. For dates of service between May 1, 2020, and December 31, 2020, Nebraska Medicaid is seeking federal approval from Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to increase Per Diem rates by \$20 per day  
<http://dhhs.ne.gov/Medicaid%20Provider%20Bulletins/Provider%20Bulletin%2020-42.pdf>

#### Nevada (NV)

##### *State of Nevada*

- Battle Born Volunteers
- State licensed nursing pools provided as a resource to facilities that require assistance with staffing

#### New Hampshire (NH)

##### *New Hampshire Employment Security*

- Established the Long Term Care Workforce Stabilization Program

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 4. Workforce and Staffing Continued

- This temporary stabilization funding incentivizes front line, direct-care workers to remain or rejoin this critical workforce during the COVID-19 emergency  
<https://www.nhes.nh.gov/services/employers/longtermcare.htm>

#### **New Jersey (NJ)**

##### *New Jersey Department of Health (NJDH)*

- NJDH maintains a webpage dedicated to COVID-19 Information for Healthcare Professionals. Several guidance documents were updated in early August 2020, including: Guidance for COVID-19 Diagnosed and/or Exposed Healthcare Personnel, Quick Reference – Discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions and Home Isolation for Persons Diagnosed with COVID-19, Considerations for Cohorting COVID-19 Patients in Post-Acute Care Facilities, and Hand Hygiene in Healthcare Settings.  
[https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/topics/covid2019\\_healthcare.shtml](https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/topics/covid2019_healthcare.shtml)
- The Guidance for COVID-19 Diagnosed and/or Exposed Healthcare Providers worksheet provides guidance for health care providers to determine if and when they should return to work; and if they do, how to transition back safely  
[https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/LINCS\\_Healthcare\\_Personnel\\_Return\\_to\\_Work.pdf](https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/LINCS_Healthcare_Personnel_Return_to_Work.pdf)
- The State of New Jersey COVID-19 Jobs and Hiring Portal provides job postings for those out of work due to COVID-19 as well as an additional link for employers to post open positions related to COVID-19  
<https://jobs.covid19.nj.gov/?Facets.filterbox.filter0=%5B%5D&Facets.filterbox.filter1=%5B%5D>
- The Road Back: Restoring Economic Health Through Public Health references six key principles for stages of reopening businesses and safely staffing them in New Jersey  
<https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/nj-information/general-public/how-does-new-jersey-plan-to-lift-restrictions-what-does-a-responsible-and-strategic-restart-of-new-jerseys-economy-look-like>

##### *New Jersey Poison Center*

- Introduced a health hotline to address the concerns of New Jersey residents. Anyone in the state of New Jersey can call 1-800-962-1253 to speak directly with a health care professional who can provide general information and answer questions about the current outbreak  
<https://www.njpies.org/coronavirus>

##### *Office of the Governor Phil Murphy*

- On June 3, 2020, Governor Phil Murphy issued a series of recommendations geared toward stabilizing facilities and bolstering the workforce by increasing the responsibilities of and support for New Jersey's nursing homes and their workers  
<https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562020/approved/20200603a.shtml>
- On March 28, 2020, Governor Phil Murphy issued an Executive Order waiving the requirements for registered medical technicians (RMT) and certified home health aides (HHA) and allowed them to function in the role of certified nursing assistants (CNA) in long term care facilities  
<https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/pdf/EO-111.pdf>
- Facilities are expected to provide basic safety and infection orientation
- Facilities must document attempts to meet the staffing standards

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 4. Workforce and Staffing Continued

#### **New Mexico (NM)**

##### *State of New Mexico*

- Nursing homes have designated staff for COVID-19 wings, which helps staff take ownership of these residents
- Some staff are now asking to be part of the designated COVID-19 staff team, whereas previously facilities had staff resigning once active cases were identified
- Condensed certified nursing assistant (CNA)/ certified medical assistant (CMA) training program to reduce training time without reducing quality
- Removed restrictions on out-of-state health care workers to assist in COVID-19 response

#### **New York (NY)**

##### *LeadingAge New York*

- The organization's free, nine-hour basic care aide skill competency course for individuals seeking employment as a temporary nursing assistant is available to both members and non-members and shares the knowledge needed to perform person-centered tasks in nursing homes. Many state waivers now allow for this testing to assist with staffing during the COVID-19 public health emergency

<https://learninghub.leadingage.org/courses/basic-care-aide-skill-competency>

##### *New York State Department of Health*

- COVID-19 Nursing Home Letter Regarding Residents outlines protocols to separate residents into cohorts of positive, negative, and unknown as well as separate staffing teams to care for COVID-19-positive residents and non-positive residents. If a facility is unable to cohort properly, it must transfer residents to another long term care facility or another non-certified location  
<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/05/nhletterregarding-residents-4.29.20.pdf>
- Health Advisory: Nursing Home Cohorting FAQs states that roommates of a resident who tests positive for COVID-19, who themselves have a negative test, are at high risk of being infected and a having positive test within the next 14 days. They should be immediately separated from the resident who tests positive and placed in a private room  
[http://leadingageny.org/home/assets/File/5\\_13\\_20-DOH-Nursing\\_Home\\_Cohorting\\_FAQs.pdf](http://leadingageny.org/home/assets/File/5_13_20-DOH-Nursing_Home_Cohorting_FAQs.pdf)
- A National Guard COVID-19 response team provides medical staff at Javits Center and New York City hospitals and testing sites
- New York Air National Guard pararescue airmen, who are trained as emergency medical technicians, assist in city hospitals  
<https://www.airforcetimes.com/news/coronavirus/2020/04/21/latest-national-guard-covid-19-update-troop-count-at-38700>

##### *New York State Health Facilities Association, New York State Center for Assisted Living*

- COVID-19 – Skilled Nursing Facility Visitation Guidance: Utilizing Non-Direct Care Staff to Support Needs describes how some direct or non-direct, non-urgent care can be redirected during the pandemic to assist staff in essential activities. Typical Nurse Aide duties can be shifted to other non-direct care staff so Aides can support staff and resident care  
<https://www.nyshfa-nyscal.org/covid-19-skilled-nursing-facility-visitation-guidance>

##### *Office of the Governor Andrew Cuomo*

- The Governor and the Commissioner of Health have sent out letters to active and inactive

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 4. Workforce and Staffing Continued

licensees in New York State seeking volunteers to assist in the COVID-19 response efforts

<http://www.op.nysed.gov/COVID-19Volunteers.html>

#### North Carolina (NC)

*North Carolina Division of Health and Human Services*

- Established online registration for medical providers interested in picking up additional staffing that includes long term care facilities
- These applications will be matched with requests from health care facilities  
<https://nc.readyop.com/fs/4cjg/697b>

#### North Dakota (ND)

*North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services (ND DHHS)*

- Hiring furloughed health care professionals to assist with the state's COVID-19 response, including contact tracing. In addition, the ND DHHS is enlisting public health graduate students and the National Guard as contact tracers  
[https://bismarcktribune.com/news/local/health/contact-tracing-puts-north-dakota-at-forefront/article\\_ccd6c42a-80ec-5c14-9feb-562ca9130011.html](https://bismarcktribune.com/news/local/health/contact-tracing-puts-north-dakota-at-forefront/article_ccd6c42a-80ec-5c14-9feb-562ca9130011.html)  
<https://www.politico.com/news/2020/04/21/tracking-coronavirus-workforce-does-not-exist-197622>

*Valley Senior Living on Columbia, Grand Forks*

- A critical staffing matrix was created and utilized to plan for a worst case scenario in which the facility would know the lowest staffing needs to care safely for residents. The Matrix suggests nursing, med aide, and CNA coverage for each unit

#### Ohio (OH)

*The Cleveland Clinic, SAS*

- The Cleveland Clinic and SAS have combined forces and data to create new predictive models to better plan staffing, supply chains, financing, etc. due to COVID-19  
<https://newsroom.clevelandclinic.org/2020/04/21/cleveland-clinic-and-sas-share-covid-19-predictive-models-to-help-hospitals-plan-for-current-and-future-needs>

*Ohio Department of Health*

- Responsible Restart Ohio: A Guide for Health Care designed to provide insight and best practices to resume non-urgent health care services across the state through a stepwise approach. This guide is intended to be a resource for patients, providers, health systems, and Ohio's COVID-19 Three Zone response infrastructure as the state begins to resume typical standards of health care  
<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/RestartOhio-Health-Care-Guide.pdf>
- COVID-19 Checklist: Recommendations for essential employees in health care and other high risk settings on actions to help protect their households from COVID-19  
<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/checklists/english-checklists/high-risk-workers-returning-home-covid-19-checklist>
- The Congregate Care Unified Response Bridge Team responds to a nursing facility's identified need in emergency situations. The team will collect relevant information from the facility and others on the ground to assist decision making. Once activated, the Bridge Team will coordinate facility communication with all relevant state agencies, the Emergency Operations Center,

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 4. Workforce and Staffing Continued

health care zones, hospitals in the area, and the local health department to provide immediate assistance

[https://www.ohca.org/docs/documents/5963/BRIDGE%20TEAM%20GUIDANCE%20AND%20INFO%20FINAL\\_6.1.20201617139567.pdf](https://www.ohca.org/docs/documents/5963/BRIDGE%20TEAM%20GUIDANCE%20AND%20INFO%20FINAL_6.1.20201617139567.pdf)

#### Ohio Department of Medicaid

- Significantly enhanced Medicaid's telehealth policy to allow reimbursement for a wider group of practitioners, services, and setting, including those delivered to residents in nursing facilities and other long term care settings. This was part of the state's overall effort to help reduce exposure to COVID-19 for patients, their families, and the health care workforce engaged in Ohio's response to the pandemic

<https://medicaid.ohio.gov/COVID/ODM-Emergency-Telehealth>

#### Rhode Island (RI)

##### Brown University

- Brown University has initiated a national survey of frontline staff in long term care facilities to understand their responses to COVID-19, document front line experiences, and rapidly disseminate best practices

<https://www.brown.edu/academics/public-health/qandi/news/2020/05/survey-long-term-care-staff-working-during-pandemic-now-live>

##### Rhode Island Responds

- Offers recruitment and management of Rhode Island's health care volunteers under one statewide system

<http://www.riresponds.org>

#### South Carolina (SC)

##### South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SC DHEC)

- SC DHEC waived Regulation 61-17, Section 603.C to temporarily allow nursing homes to employ certified South Carolina Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) to perform tasks that nurse aides generally perform, including meeting residents' needs for personal hygiene, nutrition, ambulation, and elimination, as well as taking vital signs. This waiver will remain in effect during the declared State of Emergency

<https://scdhec.gov/sites/default/files/media/document/COVID-19-DHEC-Memo-Use-EMTs-NHs.pdf>

#### Tennessee (TN)

##### Vanderbilt University Medical Center, the University of Michigan, the Procedural Learning and Safety Collaborative

- Volunteers created a website to help hospitals and nursing facilities of all sizes anticipate their staffing and personal protective equipment (PPE) needs for the COVID-19 surge. Modules included:

- COVID-19 Staffing Needs Calculator: Calculated staffing needs by clinical role as inpatient census increased

<https://www.covidstaffing.org/modules/staffing-needs>

- COVID-19 Response Planner: Planned a phased staffing response to COVID-19, based on available beds, staff, and locations

<https://www.covidstaffing.org/modules/response-planner>

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 4. Workforce and Staffing Continued

- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Needs Calculator: Calculated PPE needs as inpatient census increased  
<https://www.covidstaffing.org/modules/daily-ppe-calculator>
- Staff Skills Surveys: Determined staff skills specific to COVID-19 patient care needs  
<https://www.covidstaffing.org/modules/supply>
- Role Allocation Toolkits: Based on staff and trainee skills, assessed COVID-19 patient care roles where staff members could re-deploy  
<https://www.covidstaffing.org/modules/supply>

#### Texas (TX)

##### *State of Texas Assistance Request (STAR), Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)*

- To ensure the safety of residents in facilities that have COVID-19-infected staff, Texas has contingency contracts to provide short-term staffing assistance to facilities that cannot maintain adequate staffing due to COVID-19. This assistance may be requested through a STAR (State of Texas Assistance Request) in coordination with HHSC or local emergency management

##### *Texas Department of Health and Human Services*

- Emergency Rule Enhancements for nursing facilities include that each facility must have a COVID-19 response plan that includes designated staff to work with cohorts of residents who have tested positive for COVID-19, and staff should not change designation from one day to another, unless required to maintain adequate staffing for a cohort  
<https://hhs.texas.gov/about-hhs/communications-events/news/2020/08/hhsc-allow-limited-visitation-nursing-facilities-long-term-care-facilities>

#### Virginia (VA)

##### *LeadingAge Virginia*

- Virginia received additional federal funds to focus on infection prevention and control (IPC) training. The goal is to train front line health care workers to incorporate infection prevention practices into their day-to-day practices. Activities will include:
  - Conducting high-level learning needs assessments of Virginia's health care workforce and providing a summary report that identifies training gaps by setting, describes primary spoken and reading languages, and characterizes literacy levels and age
  - Promoting awareness and facilitating uptake of IPC training and education content provided or approved by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This could include leveraging licensing and certification requirements
  - Conducting and convening trainings for front line providers, including the establishment and implementation of remote learning capabilities
- LeadingAge Virginia created a COVID-19 Staff Travel and Social Gathering Risk Screening Tool to guide staff decision-making on travel and participation in social gatherings as this could impact residents in their care  
[https://cdn.ymaws.com/leadingagevirginia.org/resource/resmgr/docs/covid-19/06-09/Travel\\_Gathering\\_Risk\\_Form\\_F.pdf](https://cdn.ymaws.com/leadingagevirginia.org/resource/resmgr/docs/covid-19/06-09/Travel_Gathering_Risk_Form_F.pdf)

##### *Virginia Department of Health (VDH)*

- VDH developed a resource page that provides information and the tools to request and mobilize volunteers from the Virginia Medical Reserve Corp to provide long term care staffing and medical surge support needed for COVID-19 response in the Commonwealth  
<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/mrc/covid19request>

4. Workforce and Staffing Continued

**West Virginia (WV)**

*Stonerise Healthcare LLC*

- Stonerise, a nursing home chain in West Virginia, has started “safe harbor” units used to safely accept new admissions. Safe harbor is designed exclusively for all new admissions, distinct units with dedicated staff, and more stringent admission criteria to limit the risk of COVID-19 to existing patients  
<http://www.stonerisehealthcare.com/coronavirus-update>

*West Virginia Responder Emergency Deployment Information (REDI) System*

- Web-based system was developed to facilitate health and medical response through identification, credentialing, and deployment of West Virginians willing to serve in an emergency, as well as non-emergent situations
- Registration is open to West Virginia's health and medical professionals, as well as others who live or work in West Virginia and are willing to assist during a health-related emergency or event  
<https://www.wvredi.org>

**Wisconsin (WI)**

*Department of Health Services WisCaregiver Career Program*

- Goal is to connect nursing homes with qualified nursing assistants. Nursing assistants are provided a \$500 bonus following six months of work  
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/caregiver-career/cna.htm>

*LeadingAge*

- LeadingAge Learning Hub: This website offers multiple free resources for front line staff and leadership through difficult times  
[https://learninghub.leadingage.org/catalog?labels=%5B%22Topics%22%5D&values=%5B%22COVID-19%20\(Coronavirus\)%20%22%5D&mkt\\_tok=eyJpIjoiWVdVNU5XRTRNakF6WIRVMylsInQiOiJMc1F6NWxJV0dNSGFYQUJmMm1RVh6MFFMeFNhWG03TjZDcmd4Wk1jQmhEMnltNmdPdTA2WWpqd0hxTzJzaGUwK2FySFAwd3hBWjFWRU13bjArWnd2NXVONjZabFAwMnpsZ1dVcm1uVnpIREpmT09iNDdSd1JzNDVFcUg5KyJ9](https://learninghub.leadingage.org/catalog?labels=%5B%22Topics%22%5D&values=%5B%22COVID-19%20(Coronavirus)%20%22%5D&mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiWVdVNU5XRTRNakF6WIRVMylsInQiOiJMc1F6NWxJV0dNSGFYQUJmMm1RVh6MFFMeFNhWG03TjZDcmd4Wk1jQmhEMnltNmdPdTA2WWpqd0hxTzJzaGUwK2FySFAwd3hBWjFWRU13bjArWnd2NXVONjZabFAwMnpsZ1dVcm1uVnpIREpmT09iNDdSd1JzNDVFcUg5KyJ9)

*Wisconsin Department of Health Services*

- Nurse Aide training was revised by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Quality Assurance to address the unprecedented need for additional nursing assistants to join the workforce  
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/nurse-aide.htm>



## 5. COHORTING

### Alabama (AL)

*University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), Rehab Select at Talladega*

- Opened a special 16-bed unit to treat patients from nursing home facilities who have COVID-19. The unit will be housed in a separate building on the campus of Rehab Select at Talladega and is funded through the state's coronavirus relief fund. This will be UAB's second unit that is designed to serve the region and begins accepting patients on October 5  
<https://www.uab.edu/news/health/item/11588-special-unit-to-treat-nursing-home-patients-with-covid-19-opens-in-talladega-county>

### California (CA)

*California Department of Public Health*

- Provided resources for skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) on preventing, detecting and preparing for COVID-19 through the following:
- A toolkit titled "Preparing for COVID-19 in California Skilled Nursing Facilities"  
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/CDPH%20Document%20Library/AFL-20-25-Attachment-01-SNF-Checklist.pdf>
- A toolkit titled "Assessment of California Skilled Nursing Facilities to Receive Patients with Confirmed COVID-19"  
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/CDPH%20Document%20Library/AFL-20-25-Attachment-05-SNF-Assessment-Checklist.pdf>
- A toolkit titled "Detection and Management of COVID-19 Cases in Skilled Nursing Facilities"  
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/CDPH%20Document%20Library/AFL-20-25-Attachment-02-SNF-Flowchart.pdf>

*San Mateo County Health and the Health Plan of San Mateo*

- Announced Centers of Excellence Program for Skilled Nursing Facilities
- Designated three skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) as Centers of Excellence to proactively coordinate care for COVID-19 residents, which were identified for their high standards of patient care and expertise with infection control
- Centers of Excellence will treat COVID-19-positive patients discharged from local hospitals, as well as patients from community settings who have COVID-19 and require a higher level of care  
[https://www.smchealth.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/san\\_mateo\\_county\\_health\\_press\\_release\\_centers\\_for\\_excellence\\_skilled\\_nursing\\_facilities\\_april\\_21st\\_2020\\_1.pdf](https://www.smchealth.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/san_mateo_county_health_press_release_centers_for_excellence_skilled_nursing_facilities_april_21st_2020_1.pdf)

*County of San Luis Obispo, in partnership with Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Dignity Health and Tenet Healthcare*

- Opened its Alternate Care Site located at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo's Recreation Center
- This site will help relieve local hospitals and nursing homes by housing patients with needs between home care and hospitalization  
<https://www.emergencyslo.org/en/alternate-care-site.aspx>

5. Cohorting Continued

**Connecticut (CT)**

*Northbridge Health Care Center (NHCC)*

- As a COVID-19 home, NHCC has established routines and care that lend comfort to residents and staff alike  
<https://ctmirror.org/2020/05/01/a-visit-outside-a-home-where-all-the-patients-have-covid-19>

**Delaware (DE)**

*Office of the Governor John Carney*

- An April 15, 2020 Emergency Order sought to protect residents and workers in nursing facilities
- Governor Carney's order required all nursing facilities in Delaware to immediately:
- Establish a cohort of staff assigned to care for known or suspected COVID-19 residents
- Designate a room, unit, or floor of the nursing facility as a separate observation area where newly admitted and re-admitted residents are kept for 14 days, while being observed every shift for signs and symptoms of COVID-19
- Designate a room, unit or floor of the nursing facility to care for residents with known or suspected COVID-19  
<https://news.delaware.gov/2020/04/15/governor-carney-requires-strict-measures-in-long-term-care-facilities-to-fight-covid-19>

**Florida (FL)**

*Agency for Health Care Administration*

- Based on increased hospital capacity and decreased COVID-19 rates in long term care facilities, the AHCA has announced a process to phase out state-supported COVID-19 isolation centers effective September 18  
[https://ahca.myflorida.com/covid-19\\_inf.shtml](https://ahca.myflorida.com/covid-19_inf.shtml)
- The number of COVID-19 dedicated Isolation Centers located throughout the state has increased from 21 to 23. These facilities have a 1,500+ bed capacity to receive COVID-19-positive skilled nursing facility residents transferred from their facilities. The list is maintained on the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration website
- The website includes information about the types of patients that are appropriate for transfer, who can discharge patients to these Isolation Centers, and contact information to discuss potential discharge  
[https://ahca.myflorida.com/covid-19\\_inf.shtml](https://ahca.myflorida.com/covid-19_inf.shtml)

**Georgia (GA)**

*Georgia Department of Public Health*

- During a recent Georgia Department of Public Health COVID-19 update call, the director of nursing for a nursing home located in southeast Georgia shared its COVID-19 containment strategies. The facility has had no COVID-19 cases since March 2020:
  - Infection control practices started early to include temperatures of staff and residents
  - Isolation plans were implemented for residents coming from the hospital, dialysis, or other external sources
  - The facility conducted frequent staff education and requested that staff only work in its facility and not others
  - Open windows allow fresh air in the building and residents have outdoor time with social distancing
  - The National Guard has assisted with cleaning

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 5. Cohorting Continued

- The facility continually communicates with families on pandemic activities, including testing as required by the state of Georgia
- Leadership is committed to keeping all lines of communication open with staff, residents, and families to contain travel and reduce public exposure for the protection of the residents and staff

#### *Office of the Governor Brian P. Kemp*

- Issued guidance in consultation with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in nursing homes to include symptom screening for visitors, staff and residents, and separate staffing teams, facilities and units for COVID-19-positive/unknown and COVID-negative residents  
<https://gov.georgia.gov/press-releases/2020-04-03/gov-kemp-provides-overview-federal-guidance-mitigate-covid-19-nursing>

#### **Hawaii (HI)**

##### *University of Hawaii Department of Geriatrics, Healthcare Association of Hawaii*

- Long term care (LTC) COVID-19 Project Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO) series continues and has since included topics, such as COVID-19 testing, planning for dementia residents, symptom management, readiness in care homes, and congregate settings  
<https://geriatrics.jabsom.hawaii.edu/geriatrics>  
<https://geriatrics.jabsom.hawaii.edu/ltss>

#### **Idaho (ID)**

##### *The Idaho Healthcare Association, Idaho Department of Health*

- In Idaho, the prevalence of active COVID-19 cases in nursing homes is relatively low. The Idaho Healthcare Association, the Idaho Department of Health, and the long term care community have contributed ideas to a state actions report
- Larger nursing home corporations are setting up COVID-19-only units for COVID-19-positive residents and for residents transferred from hospitals for treatment of COVID-19

#### **Indiana (IN)**

##### *Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH)*

- On August 18, 2020, ISDH released an update to the COVID-19 Long Term Care (LTC) Facility Infection Control Guidance Standard Operating Procedure to reflect changes to transmission-based precautions instructions and direction for direct-care providers  
[https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN\\_COVID-19%20LTC%20checklist%2008.18.20.pdf](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19%20LTC%20checklist%2008.18.20.pdf)
- On August 18, 2020, ISDH released updates to the COVID-19 Infection Prevention Toolkit, including guidance on transmission-based precautions and procedures for direct-care providers  
[https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN\\_COVID-19%20IP%20Toolkit%20ISDH\\_8.24.2020.pdf](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19%20IP%20Toolkit%20ISDH_8.24.2020.pdf)
- On August 17, 2020, ISDH released an update to Guidance for Out-of-Hospital Facilities to reflect changes in transmission-based precautions and disposition of patients with COVID-19  
[https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN\\_COVID-19\\_out\\_of\\_hospital\\_08.17.20.pdf](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19_out_of_hospital_08.17.20.pdf)
- On August 17, 2020, ISDH released an update to COVID-19 Guidance for Hospital Discharge to Long Term Care Facilities with changes to transmission-based precautions and disposition of patients with COVID-19  
[https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN\\_COVID-19\\_LTCtransfer%208.17.20.pdf](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19_LTCtransfer%208.17.20.pdf)
- On August 17, 2020, ISDH released an update to COVID-19 Information for Long Term Care

5. Cohorting Continued

Facilities to reflect changes in discontinuation of transmission-based precautions and disposition of patients with COVID-19, as well as guidance for direct-care providers

[https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN\\_COVID-19\\_LTC\\_08.17.20.pdf](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19_LTC_08.17.20.pdf)

- On July 20, 2020, changes to isolation guidance for out of hospital facilities were released  
[https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN\\_COVID-19\\_out\\_of\\_hospital\\_07.20.2020.pdf](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19_out_of_hospital_07.20.2020.pdf)
- Long term care facilities (LTCFs) are expected to accommodate hospital discharges of patients regardless of their COVID-19 status. However, local conditions will vary with LTCF capacities to care for presumed or confirmed COVID-19 patients. Hospitals and LTCFs must communicate about resource availability prior to admission/readmission to provide patient care while reducing risk of virus spread  
[https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN\\_COVID-19\\_LTCtransfer%207.20.20.pdf](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19_LTCtransfer%207.20.20.pdf)
- There are unique challenges in managing COVID-19 in persons with cognitive impairment. On May 16, 2020, the ISDH issued recommendations for nursing homes in handling COVID-19 in memory care units  
[https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN\\_COVID-19\\_mem\\_care\\_guidelines\\_5.16.20.pdf](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19_mem_care_guidelines_5.16.20.pdf)
- On May 11, 2020, a hospital to post-acute care transfer COVID-19 assessment form was updated  
[https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN\\_COVID-19\\_Hospital\\_to\\_Post-Acute\\_Care\\_Transfer\\_5.11.20.pdf](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19_Hospital_to_Post-Acute_Care_Transfer_5.11.20.pdf)
- On May 7, 2020, COVID-19 guidance for hospital discharge to long term care facilities was updated  
[https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN\\_COVID-19\\_LTCtransfer\\_5.7.20.pdf](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19_LTCtransfer_5.7.20.pdf)
- On May 5, 2020, cohorting guidance was updated within the standard operating procedures for long term care facility infection control to reflect COVID-19 changes  
[https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN\\_COVID-19%20LTC%20checklist%2005.05.20.pdf](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19%20LTC%20checklist%2005.05.20.pdf)
- On May 3, 2020, Communication guidelines for long term care facilities were released  
[https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN\\_COVID-19\\_comm\\_guidelines\\_5.3.20.pdf](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19_comm_guidelines_5.3.20.pdf)
- On March 23, 2020, a COVID-19 infection prevention toolkit was distributed to 737 facilities by a long term care (LTC) nurse survey team. This comprehensive toolkit included Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) tools and checklists for infection control and ISDH standard operating procedures for cohorting. This included a plan to rapidly implement cohorting of confirmed or presumed COVID-19 patients in long term care facilities
- Long term care nurse surveyors are assigned to nursing homes with COVID-19-positive cases. These surveyors make daily onsite visits to congregate facilities to help them manage resident cohorting
- The state infection preventionist is available daily to all facilities and nurse surveyors with COVID-19-positive residents to help coordinate care and develop an infection prevention plan to keep staff and other residents safe
- The state infection preventionist and long term care nurse surveyors use bed boards and color-coded facility maps to help identify residents, visualize testing results, and facilitate cohorting of residents to appropriate zones  
[https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN\\_COVID-19%20IP%20Toolkit%20ISDH\\_5.5.2020.pdf](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19%20IP%20Toolkit%20ISDH_5.5.2020.pdf)

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 5. Cohorting Continued

#### Iowa (IA)

*GRX Holdings, LLC*

- GRx Pharmacies have helped a facility proactively set up an isolation unit, providing med cart, treatment cart and are waiting on a board of pharmacy waiver to provide a separate emergency kit for the unit

<https://www.grxholdings.com>

#### Massachusetts (MA)

*Beaumont Rehabilitation and Skilled Nursing Center, Worcester County, UMass Memorial Medical Center*

- UMass Memorial Medical Center helped transform the Beaumont nursing home into a recovery center by helping the facility set up infection control protocols and procedures and providing recommendations to adapt its physical structure
- To properly isolate staff from the residents, Beaumont created walls on each of the four resident care floors, separating the last two resident rooms and the sitting room from the rest of the resident care area. The staff use the two resident rooms for donning and doffing personal protective equipment (PPE) at the beginning and end of shifts, while the sitting room is used for storing PPE and other supplies

<https://www.mcknights.com/news/massachusetts-nursing-home-now-a-covid-19-treatment-facility-may-serve-as-model-for-others-around-country>

*Mass.gov*

- Approaches to expand capacity for dedicated COVID-19 skilled nursing facilities have included converting existing occupied facilities to fully dedicated COVID-19 facilities; converting empty facilities to new dedicated COVID-19 nursing facilities; and creating dedicated COVID-19 wings within a broader nursing facility
- On-site management and operational support has been provided to assist with staffing, vendors, implementing infection control measures, etc.

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-updates-and-information>

#### Minnesota (MN)

*Minnesota Department of Health*

- Bed tracking and cohorting is available to help the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) identify and communicate to homes where there are private rooms, cohorted units, and cohorted buildings to help facilitate care of COVID-19 nursing home residents. Providers are asked to complete a MDH Red Cap survey. Data from the survey is uploaded into the MNTrac system
- COVID-19 case workers are assigned once a nursing home has a COVID-19-positive case. Case managers make daily calls to congregate facilities to help them manage their cases
- The case manager is responsible for communicating, collaborating, and coordinating the care of the COVID-positive residents and develops an infection prevention plan to keep staff and other residents safe

<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem/seoc/Pages/default.aspx>

#### Nebraska (NE)

*Callaway Good Life Nursing Home Nebraska Infection Control Assessment and Promotion (ICAP) Program, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services*

- A coding system for cohorting residents was developed by a Nebraska nursing home

5. Cohorting Continued

administrator, then spread statewide by the Nebraska ICAP/Health care-acquired infection team

- Residents are identified/cohorted as:
  - Red – tested positive area for residents
  - Yellow – not positive, tested negative but exposed to Red people
  - Gray – could be possible exposure
  - Green – with no exposure

<https://icap.nebraskamed.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/04/Cohorting-Plan-for-LTCF-4.17.20.pdf>

**Nevada (NV)**

*Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health*

- Issued technical bulletin to health care facilities that included cohorting information
- Issued chief medical officer orders regarding cohorting to facilities experiencing infection control issues

**New Jersey (NJ)**

*New Jersey Department of Health*

- New resource guides long term care facilities to amend outbreak plans to include plans for testing and retesting staff and residents, cohort COVID-19-positive residents, exclude staff who test positive, and set timeframes and requirements for returning to work in accordance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Department of Health recommendations <https://www.nj.gov/health/news/2020/approved/20200512a.shtml>
- On May 21, 2020, Governor Murphy took the step of prohibiting admissions to long term care facilities that could not cohort patients and staff <https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/nj-information/general-public/what-is-the-state-doing-to-protect-residents-and-staff-at-nursing-homes-or-long-term-care-facilities>

**New Mexico (NM)**

*State of New Mexico*

- A COVID-19-only nursing home opened with the support of the health care association and the state survey agency, offering a creative way to address reimbursement of beds that remain open for future COVID-19-positive patients
- An NCI was developed for special populations in a seriously affected rural areas
- Medical shelters were created statewide to provide medical monitoring for self-isolating COVID-19-positive individuals

**New York (NY)**

*Greater New York Hospital Association (GNYHA) Continuing Care Leadership Coalition (CCLC)*

- Two New York nursing homes that continue to share their dialysis service quality practice during the COVID-19 outbreak separate COVID-19-positive patients in an isolation room. As the number of COVID-19-positive patients increase, and only if numbers go beyond the isolation room capacity, positive patients will cohort in one unit under Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines. All patients and staff are masked at all times; handwashing practices are strictly enforced; all dialysis chairs are six feet or more from each other; and routine practice includes cleaning of all surfaces with bleach (1:10 solution) between uses <http://www.cclcnny.org>

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 5. Cohorting Continued

#### New York State Department of Health

- COVID-19 Nursing Home Letter Regarding Residents outlines protocols to separate residents into cohorts of positive, negative, and unknown as well as separate staffing teams to care for COVID-19-positive residents and non-positive residents. If a facility is unable to cohort properly, it must transfer residents to another long term care facility or another non-certified location <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/05/nhletterregarding-residents-4.29.20.pdf>
- Health Advisory: Nursing Home Cohorting FAQs states that roommates of a resident who tests positive for COVID-19, who themselves have a negative test, are at high risk of being infected and a having positive test within the next 14 days. They should be immediately separated from the resident who tests positive and placed in a private room [http://leadingageny.org/home/assets/File/5\\_13\\_20-DOH-Nursing\\_Home\\_Cohorting\\_FAQs.pdf](http://leadingageny.org/home/assets/File/5_13_20-DOH-Nursing_Home_Cohorting_FAQs.pdf)

#### Ohio (OH)

##### Office of the Governor Mike DeWine

- Governor DeWine created a Minority Health Strike Force to help address issues with COVID-19 and minorities <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/MHSF/COVID-19-Minority-Health-Strike-Force.pdf>

#### Rhode Island (RI)

##### Oak Hill Center in Pawtucket

- Oak Hill Center will now be a central facility to accept COVID-19-positive patients who no longer require acute inpatient care. This will allow these patients to receive specialized rehabilitation and step-down, post-acute care while reserving beds for patients who need inpatient treatment <https://www.wpri.com/health/coronavirus/oak-hill-center-in-pawtucket-is-now-a-covid-19-specialty-nursing-home>

#### South Carolina (SC)

##### South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC)

- The DHEC created on demand education called, “Managing the Flow of Residents – Cohorting during COVID Times” to guide nursing homes on best practices for cohorting residents <https://www.scdhec.gov/infectious-diseases/viruses/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/managing-flow-residents-cohorting-during-covid-19-times>

#### Texas (TX)

##### Texas Health and Human Services Commission Regulatory Services

- Created COVID-19 response plan for nursing facilities, which is updated regularly based on federal guidance and state COVID-19 response actions.
- Nursing facilities have created plans for cohorting residents with symptoms of respiratory infection <https://hhs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/doing-business-with-hhs/provider-portal/long-term-care/nf/covid-response-nursing-facilities.pdf>

### Utah (UT)

#### State of Utah

- Created an official YouTube account, Utah Coronavirus, for COVID-19 response and information. A new set of video resources are available, including the "Protect Yourself" video playlist that includes tips for self-isolation, proper mask wearing, hand hygiene and more <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLa8O8licbk0umwGmBF323D-lv0m2TlbjC>
- In Utah, a COVID-19-only nursing home opened with the support of the health care association and the state survey agency, offering creative ways to handle reimbursement of beds that remain open for future positive COVID-19 patients

### Vermont (VT)

#### Vermont Department of Health

- Memory care units pose unique challenges, and the safety and comfort of patients must be taken into consideration before moving them to isolation units or alternate care facilities. Facilities should consider the feasibility of isolating patients in units where they reside and conducting sequential testing on each patient. In facilities where at least one COVID-19-positive resident or staff member has been identified, its memory care units should be established as negative units. If one or more COVID-19 positive residents or staff are detected within the memory care unit, the entire unit should be designated as a positive cohort [https://dail.vermont.gov/sites/dail/files//documents/Enhanced\\_SNF\\_Interventions\\_Facilities-2020-05-11.pdf](https://dail.vermont.gov/sites/dail/files//documents/Enhanced_SNF_Interventions_Facilities-2020-05-11.pdf)

### Wisconsin (WI)

#### Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health

- Provided guidance on the disposition of medically stable post-acute and long term care residents with confirmed or clinically suspected COVID-19 infection <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/dph/memos/communicable-diseases/2020-21.pdf>
- Provided guidance on the transfer of hospitalized patients infected with COVID-19 to post-acute and long term care facilities (PALTCFs) <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/dph/memos/communicable-diseases/2020-20.pdf>
- Provided guidance on the role of COVID-19 testing in decisions around transfers from acute care hospitals to post-acute and long term care facilities <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/dph/memos/communicable-diseases/2020-19.pdf>



## 6. INFECTION CONTROL “STRIKE TEAMS”

### California (CA)

#### *California Department of Public Health*

- Provided resources for skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) to help prevent, detect, and prepare for COVID-19 through the following:
- A toolkit titled “Assessment of California Skilled Nursing Facilities to Receive Patients with Confirmed COVID-19”  
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/CDPH%20Document%20Library/AFL-20-25-Attachment-05-SNF-Assessment-Checklist.pdf>
- A toolkit titled “Detection and Management of COVID-19 Cases in Skilled Nursing Facilities”  
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/CDPH%20Document%20Library/AFL-20-25-Attachment-02-SNF-Flowchart.pdf>

#### *Health Services Advisory Group (HSAG)*

- HSAG infection preventionists created a mini-webinar series to assist nursing homes with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) COVID-19 Focused Survey for Nursing Homes. The series highlights the components of the survey and provides guidance. Each 10-minute section is meant to be reviewed with nursing home staff members, possibly during daily huddles. Sections include:
  - Part 1 and 2: General Standard Precautions and Hand Hygiene
  - Part 2: Transmission-Based Precautions
  - Part 2.1: Personal Protective Equipment
  - Part 3: Resident Care and Infection Prevention Standards, Policies, and Procedures
  - Parts 4 and 5: Infection Surveillance
  - Parts 6 and 7: Visitor Entry, Education, Monitoring, and Screening of Staff
  - Parts 8 and 9: Emergency Preparedness, Staffing in Emergencies, and a Summary of the Survey<https://www.hsag.com/en/covid-19/long-term-care-facilities/cms-covid-19-focused-survey-for-nhs>

### Colorado (CO)

#### *Office of the Governor Jared Polis*

- The Strike Force Team set a goal to conduct proactive widespread asymptomatic testing for both nursing home residents and staff, to identify cases early and minimize the potential for an outbreak. The team has prioritized facilities serving the most residents, as they are at the highest risk for an outbreak
- To date, 110,690 testing kits have been distributed to 176 facilities who have indicated they just need support with supplies. Governor Polis has asked the federal government to extend the National Guard deployment past the current authorization in August to assist with these efforts  
<https://www.eptail.com/2020/07/24/colorado-covid-19-response-update>

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 6. Infection Control “Strike Teams” Continued

#### District of Columbia (DC)

*The District of Columbia Health Care Association*

- Implemented Secret Shoppers for Hand Hygiene, when workers secretly observe other workers and record compliance  
<https://www.dchca.org>

#### Florida (FL)

*Florida Department of Health and Florida Health Care Association (FHCA)*

- Created COVID-19-dedicated web pages, with links to details of emergency response/strike teams (mobile units)  
<http://www.floridahealth.gov/newsroom/2020/04/042020-1845-covid19.pr.html>

*Office of the Governor Ron DeSantis*

- Ordered the National Guard to test for COVID-19 in nursing homes and ordered strike teams to help patrol for asymptomatic carriers as outbreaks occur  
<https://thehill.com/changing-america/well-being/prevention-cures/492987-florida-governor-orders-national-guard-to-test>

*Orlando Health System*

- Orlando Health System implemented “COVID Safety Officers (CSOs)” in all its facilities. This health system includes acute care, two long term care facilities and physician practices. Every shift, a designated staff person is the CSO tasked to observe employees donning and doffing personal protective equipment (PPE), performing appropriate hand hygiene, and assuring that all other infection control and prevention policies and procedures are being followed. This has provided a level of reassurance to the long term care facilities in the greater Orlando area when accepting transfers from acute care from this health system

#### Idaho (ID)

*The Idaho Healthcare Association, Idaho Department of Health*

- The Office of the Governor Brad Little COVID-19 strike team has focused primarily on supporting hospitals and nursing homes by releasing emergency funding and enacting stay-at-home guidance

#### Indiana (IN)

*The Indiana State Department of Health Division of Survey and Certification*

- Developed COVID-19-focused state survey requirements
- Created strike teams to conduct testing in nursing homes when potential or positive COVID-19 cases are seen in residents or staff members

#### Iowa (IA)

*Office of the Governor Kim Reynolds*

- A testing strike team was sent to Tama County in response to an outbreak at a long term care facility. All staff at the facility were tested for COVID-19

#### Maryland (MD)

*Office of the Governor Larry Hogan*

- Launched statewide strike teams on April 7, 2020 comprised of the National Guard, state and

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 6. Infection Control “Strike Teams” Continued

local health department representatives, emergency medical services (EMS) clinicians, and doctors and nurses from local hospital systems

- The strike teams provide on-site medical triage, supplies, and equipment to overburdened nursing homes in order to slow the spread of the virus among Maryland’s most vulnerable population
- Three strike teams will be activated in response to requests from nursing homes, local health departments and Maryland Department of Health (MDH) infectious disease experts
- Testing teams identify those in close contact with a confirmed case and collect and send out specimens for the fastest test available
- Assistance teams quickly assess the situation on-site, determine equipment and supply needs and triage residents
- Clinical teams include doctors, nurse practitioners and registered nurses from major hospital systems, tasked with providing on-site medical triage and stabilizing residents

<https://governor.maryland.gov/2020/04/07/governor-hogan-activates-statewide-strike-teams-for-nursing-homes-enacts-order-to-shut-down-unsafe-facilities>

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/virginia-politics/maryland-forms-strike-teams-to-combat-nursing-home-coronavirus-outbreaks-in/2020/04/07/0792b312-78f5-11ea-a130-df573469f094\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/virginia-politics/maryland-forms-strike-teams-to-combat-nursing-home-coronavirus-outbreaks-in/2020/04/07/0792b312-78f5-11ea-a130-df573469f094_story.html)

#### Michigan (MI)

*Doctors Without Borders, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), Superior Health Quality Alliance*

- Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), an international medical humanitarian organization, is running COVID-19 health education and infection prevention trainings in Michigan nursing homes to help prevent the spread of the virus
- MSF has also begun working in coordination with MDHHS and the Detroit Health Department to quickly identify which nursing home facilities are in need of infection control assistance
- MSF is coordinating with Superior Health Quality Alliance, the Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) for the states of Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. The team is offering activities to help protect residents and staff, including assessments and general guidance to improve infection prevention and control practices, and mental health workshops to address the high level of stress and grief that the front line staff face every day

[https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-73970\\_71692\\_71696-531944--m\\_2016\\_7,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-73970_71692_71696-531944--m_2016_7,00.html)

#### Minnesota (MI)

*Department of Health*

- Implemented enhanced respiratory surveillance in long term care facilities to rapidly identify any potential outbreaks of COVID-19 on March 17, 2020

#### Mississippi (MS)

*Mississippi State Department of Health, Office of Epidemiology*

- Created regional outbreak response teams to facilitate testing in nursing homes when potential or positive COVID-19 cases are seen in residents or staff members. Providing guidance and support to nursing homes with outbreaks

### **New Jersey (NJ)**

#### *Office of Congressman Josh Gettheimer*

- Sponsored Outside Support (SOS) Act of 2020 legislation to create strike teams of clinical and non-clinical staff to provide immediate support to nursing homes, long term care facilities, and skilled nursing facilities experiencing outbreaks of COVID-19 in New Jersey and across the country. Bill will authorize the U.S. Secretary Health and Human Services (HHS) to allocate investment to states for the creation of these strike teams  
<https://gottheimer.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=2004>

#### *U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)*

- The VA organized five 10-person health care strike teams in five New Jersey nursing homes, consisting of VA medical workers, clinical staff, nurses, and nursing assistants  
<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/federal-va-to-send-strike-teams-to-coronavirus-stricken-nj-nursing-homes-as-deaths-mount/ar-BB145Fnr>

### **New Mexico (NM)**

#### *State of New Mexico*

- Implemented enhanced respiratory surveillance in long term care facilities to rapidly identify any potential outbreaks of COVID-19

### **New York (NY)**

#### *Continuing Care Leadership Coalition*

- Members established and educated staff regarding its COVID-19 response strategic plan
- Responses comprised the areas of clinical management; personal protective equipment (PPE) and relevant supplies inventory, procurement, distribution, use and conservation; staff management and volunteer coordination; wellness and symptom monitoring; risk assessment; establishment of criteria for testing; infection control; non-essential personnel suspension; immediate reporting of significant changes in resident and/or staff condition; ancillary services management; partnership with hospitals; advance care planning establishment or review; and ongoing communication with staff, residents and families  
<http://cclcnny.org/providing-quality-across-the-continuum/care-coordination-across-the-continuum>

#### *New York State Department of Health*

- COVID-19 Infection Control Guidance for Nursing Homes and Adult Care Facilities: Official state guidance regarding infection control practices, case reporting, and other vital aspects of the COVID-19 response in nursing homes in New York  
<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/03/covid-19infectioncontrolguidanceguidancewebinarfornhsandacfs3-26-20.pdf>
- Interim Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfection of Public and Private Facilities for COVID-19: Official state recommendations regarding supplies and processes to be utilized to reduce transmission of COVID-19  
[https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/03/cleaning\\_guidance\\_general\\_building.pdf](https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/03/cleaning_guidance_general_building.pdf)

### North Carolina (NC)

*Office of the Governor Roy Cooper*

- On June 4, 2020, Governor Cooper issued Executive Order No. 143, establishing the Andrea Harris Social, Economic, Environmental, and Health Equity Task Force to focus on economic stability, health disparities, and environmental justice in the state. Other state departments were directed to provide targeted measures to help communities of color recover from COVID-19  
<https://files.nc.gov/governor/documents/files/EO143-Addressing-the-Disproportionate-Impact-of-COVID-19-on-Communities-of-Color.pdf>

### North Dakota (ND)

*State of North Dakota*

- The State of North Dakota Hospital Coordination and Vulnerable Population Protection Plan 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic Response plan was drafted to ensure that hospitals and communities have resources to handle a potential surge of COVID-19 patients. The plan provides the framework for the state of North Dakota in collaboration with hospitals, long term care facilities, the North Dakota National Guard (NDNG), and other state and local agencies to serve the health care needs of citizens with COVID-19 that require hospitalization. A six-point plan identifies key actions that will guide the state, hospitals, and care facilities through a tiered system  
<https://ndresponse.gov/sites/www/files/documents/covid-19/Additional%20Resources/Hospitals%20and%20VP3%20FINAL.pdf>

*Valley Senior Living on Columbia, Grand Forks*

- Valley Senior Living implemented a strike team and procedure for communicating a COVID-19 positive resident. The procedure outlines when the notification occurs and by whom, who to contact immediately (including phone numbers), and the use of walkie talkies to notify staff internally. The document outlines when to call huddles, personal protective equipment (PPE) utilization, hand hygiene, and communication for the resident families. The procedure then outlines the communication to the COVID-19 Care Team, Contact Tracing Team, Social Services notification to families, Operations to perform Zoom huddles with IDT and COVID-19 Command Team for briefing, as well as communication for Environmental Services

### Ohio (OH)

*Office of the Governor Mike DeWine*

- To address the coronavirus crisis in Ohio nursing homes, the state is conducting more aggressive strategies to stop the virus by deploying a strike team to nursing homes to organize both preventative and treatment measures  
<https://www.cleveland.com/coronavirus/2020/05/ohios-strategy-to-fight-coronavirus-at-nursing-homes-deploying-testing-strike-teams-to-affected-facilities.html>

*Ohio Department of Health (ODH), Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM)*

- ODH and ODM partnered to develop a regulatory and payment structure for Health Care Isolation Centers that will provide a nursing facility level of care to patients who require quarantine and/or those who require care for an active COVID-19 infection  
[https://leadingageohio.org/aws/LAO/asset\\_manager/get\\_file/444806?ver=58](https://leadingageohio.org/aws/LAO/asset_manager/get_file/444806?ver=58)

### **Pennsylvania (PA)**

*Department of Human Services (DHS), Department of Health (DOH)*

- DHS and DOH, in coordination with the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), have developed the Regional Response Health Collaboration Program (RRHCP). This program is designed to directly support COVID-19 readiness and response in long term residential care facilities, including long term care nursing facilities, personal care homes, and assisted living residences  
<https://www.dhs.pa.gov/providers/Clearances-and-Licensing/Documents/Assisted%20Living%20Licensing/RRHCP%20Announcement%207-21-20.pdf>

### **Texas (TX)**

*Office of the Governor Greg Abbott*

- On April 27, 2020, Governor Abbott announced the formation of the Rapid Assessment Quick Response Force to provide rapid response to nursing facilities that can be deployed upon request by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission and Department of State Health Services through the Long-Term Care Regulatory and Emergency Medical Task Force. If needed, an additional team can be sent to assist the facility with immediate needs  
<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Report.pdf>

*Office of the Texas Governor Greg Abbott and the U.S. Department of Defense*

- Governor Greg Abbott announced July 13, 2020 that the U.S. Department of Defense has activated additional U.S. Army Urban Augmentation Medical Task Forces (UAMTF) to assist the state's efforts to combat COVID-19. At the Governor's request and as part of a whole-of-nation approach, one UAMTF arrived in San Antonio on July 6, an additional task force arrived in Texas to support the Houston region July 13 and four UAMTFs, along with a U.S. Navy Acute Care Team and four U.S. Navy Rapid Rural Response teams, will be deployed to additional locations across Texas as identified by ongoing assessments. These teams consist of medical and support professionals which are being deployed to support medical needs in hospitals throughout the state  
<https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/governor-abbott-announces-additional-department-of-defense-resources-to-mitigate-covid-19>

### **West Virginia (WV)**

*West Virginia Department of Health*

- West Virginia Department of Health State officials announced on October 21, 2020, the implementation of a new system for nursing home strike teams for COVID-19 outbreaks. When an outbreak occurs, the team will be activated through the health command phone call system. The team will be made up of National Guard members and others, including infectious disease specialists, pulmonary specialists, nursing home specialists, and other physicians. Through regionalized teams around the state, the goal is to be into outbreak nursing homes within 24-48 hours of notification. The state has used strike teams at nursing homes before; however, this time the state has partnered with other organizations, as well as local health departments, and the National Guard. The strike teams are especially needed to help small nursing homes in rural areas. The state is encouraging volunteer consult teams to participate more actively  
<https://www.wvpublic.org/government/2020-10-23/new-strike-team-formed-to-respond-to-coronavirus-outbreaks-in-w-va-nursing-homes>

## 7. INFECTION CONTROL SURVEYS AND OTHER STATE SURVEY ACTIVITY

### Alaska (AK)

*Alaska State Department of Epidemiology and State Survey Agency*

- Organized collaborative weekly sessions to review and provide updates to nursing homes and assisted living facilities
- Revised infection prevention assessment checklists to be relevant to smaller rural settings
- Updated survey assessment tool

### California (CA)

*California Department of Public Health (CDPH)*

- CDPH required all nursing homes to expand their infection control policies by submitting a mitigation plan by June 1, 2020 that included these six elements:
  - Testing and cohorting
  - Infection prevention and control
  - Personal protective equipment (PPE)
  - Staffing shortages
  - Designation of space
  - Communication
- To assist nursing homes in strengthening and effectively implementing their plans, CDPH partnered with the California Association of Long Term Care Medicine and Health Services Advisory Group, the California Quality Improvement Organization (QIO), to host calls every Wednesday and Thursday to provide infection prevention education and field questions from providers  
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/AFL-20-52.aspx>

*Health Services Advisory Group (HSAG)*

- HSAG infection preventionists created a mini-webinar series to assist nursing homes with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) COVID-19 Focused Survey for Nursing Homes. The series highlights the components of the survey and provides guidance. Each 10-minute section is meant to be reviewed with nursing home staff members, possibly during daily huddles. Sections include:
  - Part 1 and 2: General Standard Precautions and Hand Hygiene
  - Part 2: Transmission-Based Precautions
  - Part 2.1: Personal Protective Equipment
  - Part 3: Resident Care and Infection Prevention Standards, Policies, and Procedures
  - Parts 4 and 5: Infection Surveillance
  - Parts 6 and 7: Visitor Entry, Education, Monitoring, and Screening of Staff
  - Parts 8 and 9: Emergency Preparedness, Staffing in Emergencies, and a Summary of the Survey<https://www.hsag.com/en/covid-19/long-term-care-facilities/cms-covid-19-focused-survey-for-nhs>

### **Colorado (CO)**

*Office of the Governor Jared Polis*

- Initiated a COVID-19 Innovation Response Team, taking a multipronged approach to include increased testing, tailored social-distancing measures, a reinforced health care system, and a bolstering of state epidemiological resources
- The Colorado Department of Health and Environment (CDPHE) conducts weekly infection control surveys and weekly stakeholder calls with the infectious disease division, the survey and certification division, and the nursing homes; it also works with the emergency command center to support nursing homes

<https://coloradosun.com/2020/04/20/colorado-national-guard-nursing-home-testing>

### **Connecticut (CT)**

*Connecticut Department of Public Health*

- Conducts on-site visits to all of Connecticut's nursing homes and long term care facilities for infection control survey

<https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Facility-Licensing--Investigations/NURSING-HOME-SITE/Nursing-Home-Inspections>

### **Florida (FL)**

*Agency for Health Care Administration (SSA)*

- Nursing home infection control surveys are being completed and shared on its website

<https://ahca.myflorida.com>

### **Georgia (GA)**

*Georgia Department of Public Health*

- The ability to provide on-site support and develop a process for video audits has been invaluable to those in "hot spots" of COVID-19 activity. The agency collects data from health care facilities on the State Electronic Notifiable Disease Surveillance System for Georgia (SENDSS) network, supports health care facilities with virtual and on-site visits, and tests COVID-19 samples at the Georgia Department of Public Health Laboratory

<https://dph.georgia.gov>

### **Indiana (IN)**

*The Indiana State Department of Health Division of Long-term Care*

- Beginning on April 6, 2020, the Department has followed up on every new positive case, either by daily long term care surveyor phone calls or visits, to ensure a plan is in place to care for COVID-19-positive residents
- Since April 15, 2020, protocols have included:
  - 1-10 positive cases receive weekly visits and calls
  - 11-20 positive cases receive twice-weekly visits
  - 21 cases and higher receive daily visits until stable, then visits every other day
  - Positive staff cases only receive Monday, Wednesday, and Friday calls
- Referrals for infection preventionist follow-up occur with concerns or when additional assistance is needed
- The Department has contracted with a professional long term care nursing company to perform outreach and test result calls



## *State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response*

### *7. Infection Control Surveys and Other State Survey Activity Continued*

#### **Iowa (IA)**

##### *Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)*

- In combined effort with the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA), IDPH is assessing non-COVID-19 facilities with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) tele-Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) tool and minimal amount of COVID-19-active cases. This is in response to urgent facility outbreak prevention needs

#### **Montana (MT)**

##### *State of Montana*

- Montana has requested that all long term care and assisted living facilities complete and submit the infection control self-assessment worksheet provided in QSO-20-14-NH dated March 13, 2020. State survey and licensing staff are reviewing all submissions and working with facilities on a case-by-case basis to strengthen infection control
- Montana is conducting targeted infection control surveys in facilities using risk-based criteria to determine facility selection and scheduling

#### **Nevada (NV)**

##### *Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health*

- Distributed infection control and prevention assessment surveys tailored to relevant settings, analyzing information to identify gaps to help target education
- Organized collaborative weekly sessions with skilled nursing facility and assisted living associations to review and provide updates to nursing homes and assisted living facilities
- Currently performing onsite infection control surveys in skilled nursing facilities, larger assisted living facilities, and long term acute care hospitals
- Collaborating with the Nevada National Guard to visit smaller group homes and provide educational materials on donning and doffing personal protective equipment (PPE), environmental cleaning, hand hygiene, and preventive measures to protect residents from contracting COVID-19. This information is being translated into Spanish and Tagalog. The National Guard will help smaller facilities order PPE if needed

#### **New Jersey (NJ)**

##### *New Jersey Department of Health*

- The New Jersey COVID-19 Information Hub provides the most up-to-date information about COVID-19 and the state's response, including information about services such as food support and small business assistance  
<https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/ncov.shtml>

#### **New Mexico (NM)**

##### *State of New Mexico*

- Organized collaborative weekly sessions to review and provide updates to nursing homes, intermediate care facilities (ICFs), skilled nursing facilities (SNFs), and assisted living facilities
- State survey staff use video monitoring for daily surveillance calls to nursing facilities

#### **New York (NY)**

##### *LeadingAge New York*

- “Recommendations to Nursing Homes in COVID-19 Crisis” provides guidance to nursing homes

## *State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response*

### *7. Infection Control Surveys and Other State Survey Activity Continued*

on infection control, including the new Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) infection control survey tool. LeadingAge has created a supplemental tool to be used in conjunction with the CMS tool to help nursing homes prepare for and respond to COVID-19 <https://leadingage.org/regulation/cms-issues-new-recommendations-nursing-homes-covid-19-crisis>

#### **North Dakota (ND)**

##### *North Dakota State Survey Agency*

- Every nursing home in North Dakota receives a state survey visit focused on infection prevention
- The agency collaborated with the Great Plains Quality Innovation Network (QIN) using an online tool to assess all nursing homes on infection preparedness; about 30 nursing homes volunteered for a more comprehensive assessment

#### **South Carolina (SC)**

##### *South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC)*

- SC DHEC maintains a web page that provides state and federal resources and updates on changes to infection control policies and guidelines <https://scdhec.gov/infectious-diseases/viruses/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/nursing-homes-covid-19>

#### **Texas (TX)**

##### *State of Texas*

- Created a surveyor job aid tool to help ensure thorough reviews during a focused infection control survey or investigation. The job aid tool details questions the surveyor must ask and information that must be gathered. It includes the tag/regulatory reference for the requirements related to the questions or information, and space for the surveyor to document information

##### *Texas Department of Health and Human Services*

- A Nursing Facility Infection Control webinar scheduled for September 18, 2020 for nursing facility surveyors and providers will offer an introduction to strategies and tools to assess and develop interventions to prevent infections in older adults and individuals with intellectual disabilities in Texas long term care settings <https://apps.hhs.texas.gov/providers/training/jointtraining.cfm>
- Starting June 11, 2020, Special Infection Control Assessment (SICA) teams will be conducting on-site assessments at nursing facilities to identify infection control concerns and to provide immediate recommendations and guidance to facility leadership on infection control practices and mitigation strategies <https://hhs.texas.gov/about-hhs/communications-events/news/2020/06/nf-special-infection-control-assessments>
- PPE training has been offered weekly via webinar starting July 24, 2020 through August 28, 2020. The training has been extended through September 25, 2020 <https://apps.hhs.texas.gov/providers/training/jointtraining.cfm>
- The Texas Health and Humans Services Commission maintains a webpage of COVID-19 Provider Information which contains multiple helpful links including information about Special Issues in Skilled Nursing Facilities and Nursing Facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic, strategies to

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 7. Infection Control Surveys and Other State Survey Activity Continued

mitigate personnel shortages, Infection control guidance, proper N95 use, and helping residents with dementia prevent the spread of COVID-19, among other topics.

<https://hhs.texas.gov/services/health/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-covid-19-provider-information>

#### *Texas Department of State Health Services*

- The Texas Department of State Health Services has created a robust contact tracing program and web-based application to find and follow up with people who have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. This will also be helpful for tracking cases related to nursing facility outbreaks

<https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/tracing.aspx>

#### *Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)*

- The HHSC has published IL 20-41: Preadmission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR) Evaluations Using Telephone or Videoconferencing Interviews. Medicaid-certified nursing facilities must comply with these guidelines for PASRR Evaluations conducted by phone interviews or videoconferencing

<https://apps.hhs.texas.gov/providers/communications/2020/letters/IL2020-41.pdf>

### **Vermont (VT)**

#### *Vermont Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living*

- The Self-Assessment of Infection Control Program for State Licensed Homes tool is intended to provide a framework for homes and residences to assess infection control readiness. Managers or nurses may use the tool to confirm that the infection control program aligns with health care standards (if applicable to population), or to identify gaps in existing policies and procedures that may need to be addressed during the COVID-19 pandemic

[https://dail.vermont.gov/sites/dail/files/documents/COVID19\\_Self\\_Assessment\\_for\\_State\\_Licensed\\_Facilities.pdf](https://dail.vermont.gov/sites/dail/files/documents/COVID19_Self_Assessment_for_State_Licensed_Facilities.pdf)

### **Virginia (VA)**

#### *Health Quality Innovators (HQI)*

- Developed a COVID-19 Focused Survey Readiness Book Guide to help facilities prepare for the COVID-19 Focused Survey

[https://www.hqi.solutions/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/COVID-19-Focused-Survey-Readiness-Book\\_5-19-2020\\_508.pdf](https://www.hqi.solutions/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/COVID-19-Focused-Survey-Readiness-Book_5-19-2020_508.pdf)

### **West Virginia (WV)**

#### *West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources*

- The Office of Inspector General, Office of Health Facility, Licensure and Certification maintains regular contact and communication via a statewide listserv with all nursing home administrators, regional nursing home representatives, corporate nursing home representatives, the provider association, and the state long term care ombudsman to disseminate information and answer questions. In addition, the office, among other actions:
  - Coordinated the fitting of 12 nursing home surveyors with N95 masks and Tyvek suits

*State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response*

*7. Infection Control Surveys and Other State Survey Activity Continued*

- Disseminated Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance to all West Virginia nursing homes via listserv, including the Infection Control Toolkit
- Mandated all nursing home administrators and key personnel participate in a webinar to discuss statewide testing requirements for the Governor's Executive Order

**Wisconsin (WI)**

*Wisconsin Department of Human Services Division of Quality Assurance*

- Offers weekly Q&A calls for nursing homes; shares resources for community and health care providers; and integrates the expertise of infectious disease leader Dr. Chris Crnich, State Survey Agency Bureau of Nursing Home Resident Care Director Ann Angell, and state public health leadership

**Wyoming (WY)**

*Wyoming Aging Division, Survey and Certification Bureau and Surveillance Epidemiologist, Wyoming Healthcare Association*

- The Wyoming Healthcare Association offers weekly collaborative calls and bilateral support sessions for long term care and assisted living facilities

## 8. NURSING HOME (NH) COMMUNICATIONS

### Alabama (AL)

*Alabama Nursing Home Association (ANHA)*

- Released the ANHA Disaster Preparedness Toolkit  
<https://anha.org/anha-launches-new-disaster-preparedness-toolkit>

*Office of the Governor Kay Ivey*

- The Office of the Governor amended the “Safer at Home Order,” effective May 22, 2020 through July 3, 2020. The amended Safer at Home Order is the second phase of a multiphase statewide plan to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in Alabama. The new updates apply to the re-opening of entertainment venues, athletic activities, educational institutions, child care facilities, and summer camps. Hospitals and long term care facilities are still to prohibit visitors and non-essential health care personnel. See #16 on the linked document regarding nursing home restrictions on visitation  
<https://altogetheralabama.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Safer-at-Home-Order-FINAL-5.21.2020.pdf>

### Alaska (AK)

*Office of the Governor Mike Dunleavy, Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management*

- The Alaska.gov website includes a unified command page with a section providing guidance and a checklist for developing critical infrastructure community/workforce protective plans
- Plans must be developed and submitted to the state prior to the start of any interstate and intra-state travel of essential employees unable to complete a 14-day self-quarantine  
<https://covid19.alaska.gov/unified-command>

### Arkansas (AR)

*Arkansas Department of Health, Arkansas Healthcare Association, and Arkansas Department of Human Services Office of Long Term Care*

- Arkansas Healthcare Association hosted several webinars to provide updates to AR nursing homes about statewide reopening plans and how they are working together with Arkansas Department of Health and Arkansas Department of Human Services to reopen safely

*Arkansas Department of Human Services Office of Long Term Care*

- The Arkansas Office of Long Term Care reached out to the Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) in their state to refer a nursing home that was not performing well

### Arizona (AZ)

*2-1-1 Arizona*

- Launched a statewide COVID-19 Hotline that offers an entry point to field questions and concerns from Arizona residents about COVID-19  
<https://211arizona.org/covid-19>

*Bandera Healthcare*

- Hosts weekly calls with key physicians in nursing homes and local nearby hospitals (e.g., hospitalists, skilled nursing facilities (SNFs), primary care providers, and infectious disease

## *State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response*

### *8. NH Communications Continued*

physicians) to identify gaps in knowledge, training, and personal protective equipment (PPE) issues and to provide updates on the current state of operations and address staff shortages and fears

#### *Health Services Advisory Group (HSAG)*

- Convenes a weekly call with stakeholders to coordinate communication between hospitals and nursing homes. Calls focus on providers sharing status of COVID-19 inpatients, emergency department surges, nursing home capacity, personal protective equipment (PPE) and testing resources, infection prevention training, and use of telemedicine. Participants include hospitals, nursing homes, state agencies, and nursing home trade associations
- HSAG developed a special SharePoint site that included a section for Q&As, announcements, and new resources. This site also included a nursing home bed-count tracker to improve care coordination between hospitals and post-acute care

#### *Maricopa County Public Health Department*

- Holds weekly calls with long term care providers to update the community on case counts, guidelines, personal protective equipment (PPE) distribution, and other important issues during the pandemic  
<https://www.maricopa.gov/5496/Long-Term-Care-Facilities>
- Facilities receive a weekly survey, which is then analyzed by county officials. Infection preventionists can then target facilities most in need of technical assistance and PPE distribution
- The Arizona Department of Human Services and Unified Command are both purchasing PPE and are prioritizing distributing the bulk of the PPE to long term care facilities for the protection of the most vulnerable  
<https://www.maricopa.gov/5460/Coronavirus-Disease-2019>

#### *The Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management*

- Declared a public health state of emergency for the Navajo Nation and created a web page with information, maps, and resources about the coronavirus response in their local area  
<https://navajo-nation-coronavirus-response-ndoh-nec.hub.arcgis.com>

#### *Office of the Governor Doug Ducey*

- Governor Doug Ducey established the Task Force on Long-Term Care, which is focused on safely resuming visitation within long term care facilities. The task force includes public health officials, medical experts, senior advocates, private sector leaders, legislators, and families. The task force will develop recommendations and metrics for how and when in-person visitation can safely resume at long term care and assisted living facilities. The task force will also make recommendations on how to best keep families informed about their loved ones  
<https://azgovernor.gov/governor/news/2020/07/governor-ducey-announces-task-force-long-term-care>

#### *Poison Control Hotline*

- Developed an additional line to field COVID-19-specific questions from nursing homes across the state
- COVID-19 Hotline: 1-844-542-8201

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 8. NH Communications Continued

#### *Windsor Ridgecrest*

- This nursing home leverages social media (Facebook and LinkedIn) to increase morale, optimism, and to reassure its community about loved ones in their nursing home  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pRpLD4wLHac4T\\_gY8D1\\_aWpHsvdjDNVn/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pRpLD4wLHac4T_gY8D1_aWpHsvdjDNVn/view)

#### **California (CA)**

##### *California Association of Long Term Care Medicine (CALTCM)*

- Has hosted weekly webinars since March 9, 2020, featuring state actions to help nursing homes understand infection prevention state actions. In addition, CALTCM actively appears in the media and writes white papers and guidelines to assist public health officials and providers to ensure the safety of nursing home residents and staff
- CALTCM developed the Long term Care Quadruple Aim, which includes 1) stellar infection control, including a full-time infection preventionist in every nursing home; 2) access to sufficient personal protective equipment (PPE); 3) readily available testing for symptomatic and asymptomatic staff and residents; and 4) incident command mode

#### **Colorado (CO)**

##### *Office of the Governor Jared Polis*

- Colorado Governor Jared Polis initiated a COVID-19 Innovation Response Team, taking a multipronged approach and including increased testing, tailored social-distancing measures, a reinforced health care system, and a bolstering of state epidemiological resources  
<https://covid19.colorado.gov/press-release/state-announces-residential-outbreak-task-force>

#### **Delaware (DE)**

##### *Delaware Health Care Facilities Association (DHCFA)*

- Placed large signs with room numbers on long term care facility windows so families could easily identify their loved ones
- Initiated a cohort for medical directors, directors of nursing, and infection preventionists within nursing homes and assisted living facilities in collaboration with the AMDA – Society for Post-Acute and Long-term Care Medicine. This cohort has hosted speakers on best practices and lessons learned from other states
- A medical director listserv was created for peer-to-peer communication
- Facilitates one-on-one electronic communication with facility ombudsman to ensure families are connected to staff on important information  
<https://www.dhcfa.org>

##### *LeadingAge*

- Offered a free one-week program to help caregivers and the aging population overcome COVID-19 challenges. The program was held daily via Zoom for one week, with a different daily topic delivered by experts  
<https://leadingagenjde.org/event/the-covid-19-tool-kit-2>

#### **Florida (FL)**

##### *Florida Department of Health and Agency for Health Care Administration*

- The Florida Health Care Association hosts weekly conference calls for all nursing homes with presentations and Q&A sessions with the State Surgeon General Scott Rivkees and Secretary

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 8. NH Communications Continued

Mary Mayhew of the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration. Each session is recorded and posted online

[https://www.fhca.org/facility\\_operations/coronavirus](https://www.fhca.org/facility_operations/coronavirus)

- Information is routinely shared through Eblasts and posted on the Agency's COVID-19 website at [http://ahca.myflorida.com/COVID-19\\_Facilities.shtml#facility](http://ahca.myflorida.com/COVID-19_Facilities.shtml#facility)

#### *Florida Health Care Association (FHCA)*

- Healthcare Heroes' Stories of Care is a special weekly communication designed to keep Florida FHCA members, legislators, state officials, and other stakeholders abreast of the positive news in the long term care profession during the COVID-19 public health emergency. To share stories and photos, please email [herostories@fhca.org](mailto:herostories@fhca.org)  
[https://www.fhca.org/media\\_center/healthcare\\_heroes\\_stories\\_of\\_care](https://www.fhca.org/media_center/healthcare_heroes_stories_of_care)
- Created a COVID-19-dedicated web page with information on its personal protective equipment (PPE) train-the-trainer webinar and more  
[https://www.fhca.org/facility\\_operations/coronavirus](https://www.fhca.org/facility_operations/coronavirus)
- Created a special communication designed to keep FHCA members, legislators, state officials, and other stakeholders abreast of the positive news in the long term care profession during the COVID-19 public health emergency

#### *Florida Hospital Association (FHA), Florida Health Care Association (FHCA)*

- FHA and FHCA are hosting 21 regional Acute/Post-acute Collaborative (APAC) calls. The regions are in alignment with the QIN-QIO community coalitions. The objective of these calls is to bring providers and local stakeholders together and to increase collaboration and communication, share challenges, best practices, data, support, and resources. The calls began on June 10, 2020 and will continue every four to six weeks with topics based on the communities' needs. The call schedule can be viewed on the FHCA website  
<https://www.fhca.org>

#### *Florida Medical Director's Association*

- Convened a collaborative call with the Florida Healthcare Association, Florida Hospital Association, Emergency Medical Services, and Social Security Administration

### **Georgia (GA)**

#### *Georgia Medical Directors Association/Georgia Society for Post-Acute and Long term Care*

- Announced the free "Grand Rounds Webinar Series" for medical directors and skilled nursing and assisted living facility leadership and staff. The series, occurring on the second Thursday of each month, will present timely topics that encourage thought, discussion and collaboration among participants. Each presentation will be uploaded to the Georgia Medical Directors Association YouTube Channel for viewing  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6A212OHH2mghE86D\\_iJS3Q](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6A212OHH2mghE86D_iJS3Q)

#### *Office of the Governor Brian P. Kemp*

- On June 11, 2020, Governor Kemp issued an Executive Order stating that controlled outdoor visitations may occur as part of a compassionate plan of care, so long as state guidelines are followed. The shelter-in-place order for long term facilities remains in place until July 12, 2020  
<https://gov.georgia.gov/executive-action/executive-orders/2020-executive-orders>



## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 8. NH Communications Continued

- On June 29, 2020, Governor Kemp extended the Public Health State of Emergency via Executive Order as part of the state's ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was set to expire on July 12, and has been extended to August 11 and, additionally, extends Executive Order 04.08.20.03 regarding long term care for a period of 43 days, also until August 11. As such, centers are being asked to continue to restrict facility visitation, group activities and communal dining  
<https://gov.georgia.gov/executive-action/executive-orders/2020-executive-orders>

### Hawaii (HI)

#### Office of the Governor David Ige

- Provides a COVID-19 Project ECHO education and training series. Sessions occur weekly and all long term care and assisted living facilities are invited
- Series topics include: donning/doffing personal protective equipment (PPE), repurposing PPE, COVID-19 testing procedures, resident isolation and staff quarantine, and telemedicine in long term care  
<https://geriatrics.jabsom.hawaii.edu/geriatrics>  
<https://geriatrics.jabsom.hawaii.edu/ltss>

### Illinois (IL)

#### Chicago Department of Public Health

- Created a dedicated website with specific long term care guidance to implement appropriate infection prevention and control, rapidly identify potentially infected staff/visitors, monitor residents for signs and symptoms of infection, access testing for residents and facility staff, investigate clusters of COVID-19, and connect to needed resources, including personal protective equipment (PPE)  
<https://www.chicagohan.org/covid-19/LTCF>

#### Health Care Council of Illinois (HCCI)

- Developed COVID-19 Resource page, updated daily with information regarding state and federal regulations, infection control, personal protective equipment (PPE), and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) information
- Prepares weekly member newsletters and email blasts on COVID-19-related resources and events throughout the state  
<http://www.hccil.org/covid-19>

#### Illinois Department of Public Health

- Created the Coronavirus Disease 2019 website, which includes long term care guidance, information on facility outbreaks, and a link to Governor J.B. Pritzker's daily briefing  
<https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19>
- Alerts Illinois long term care providers daily through the COVID-19 communication plan and the State of Illinois Rapid Electronic Notification System (SIREN)  
<https://www.siren.illinois.gov>  
<https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/daily-communications>

## Indiana (IN)

### *Indiana Health Care Association/Indiana Center for Assisted Living*

- In a partnership effort, the Indiana Health Care Association released additional guidance on June 16, 2020, regarding the Indiana State Department of Health's Sustainable COVID-19 Planning for Long Term Care Facilities in Indiana  
<https://www.ihca.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Sustainable-COVID-19-Planning-for-Long-Term-Care-Facilities-6.16.2020.pdf>

### *Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH)*

- On May 3, 2020, communication guidelines for long term care facilities were released  
[https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN\\_COVID-19\\_comm\\_guidelines\\_5.3.20.pdf](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19_comm_guidelines_5.3.20.pdf)
- Developed communication guidelines for reporting facility COVID-19 status
- Developed strategy guidelines for COVID-19 in memory care units
- Created an outreach email for those families having difficulty receiving COVID-19 communication on loved ones from long term care facilities
- On June 3, 2020, ISDH released an update to its COVID-19 Toolkit for Long Term Care Facilities that had been issued on May 16, 2020  
[https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN\\_COVID-19%20IP%20Toolkit%20ISDH\\_6.3.2020.pdf](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19%20IP%20Toolkit%20ISDH_6.3.2020.pdf)
- Essential Family Caregivers in Long Term Care Facilities - Released update on June 5, 2020
  - Recognizing the critical role family members and other outside caregivers (e.g., friends, volunteers and private personal caregivers) often have in the care and support of residents, it is recommended that long term care facilities (LTCFs) consider designating as Essential Family Caregivers (EFCs) those family members and other outside caregivers who, prior to visitor restrictions, were regularly engaged with the resident at least two or more times per week to provide companionship and/or assist with activities requiring one-on-one direction
  - The goal of EFCs is to help high risk residents who are missing care previously provided by a loved one or outside caregiver  
[https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN\\_COVID-19%20EFCs%206.5.20.pdf](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19%20EFCs%206.5.20.pdf)
- Long Term Care Facility Outdoor Visitation Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) - Released June 5, 2020
  - Contains frequently asked questions regarding the guidance released on June 3, 2020 regarding outdoor visitation  
[https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/Outdoor%20Visitation%20FAQ\\_6.5.20.pdf](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/Outdoor%20Visitation%20FAQ_6.5.20.pdf)
- ISDH unveiled a Long Term Care (LTC) COVID-19 website dedicated specifically to LTC questions and guidance for COVID-19 The website contains links for guidance on long term care facilities, visitation, personal services, essential family caregivers, and outdoor family visitation.  
<https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/longtermcare>
- Use the following link to review November 2020 updates to ISDH guidance to long term care facilities, including upcoming holiday considerations. Check both the link for Recent Public Updates and the link for Recent Professional Updates.  
<https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/>

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 8. NH Communications Continued

#### *The Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health ECHO Center at Indiana University Purdue University of Indianapolis*

- Developed a COVID-19-specific ECHO program effective April 1, 2020. ECHO uses Zoom teleconferencing for real-time answers from subject-matter experts to questions from physician practices, produced live and at no-cost with clinical continuing medical education (CME) credits available  
<https://fsph.iupui.edu/doc/COVID-19-ECHO-Launch-.pdf>

#### **Iowa (IA)**

##### *Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals*

- Fields individual nursing home questions specific to survey or regulation, created a website FAQ document for support on common questions, and provides 1135 waiver guidance. During surveys, the Department encourages nursing homes to reach out to the Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) or Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) for support  
<https://dia.iowa.gov/about/novel-coronavirus-covid-19>

##### *Iowa Long Term Care Ombudsman*

- Provides individual nursing home support for advocacy of needs at resident level
- Supports residents and families with concerns
- Encourages nursing homes to reach out to the Quality Improvement Organization, the Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA), and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) for support
- Website houses multiple resources  
<https://www.iowaaging.gov/educational-resources/covid-19-older-iowans>

#### **Kansas (KS)**

##### *Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS)*

- Nursing Facilities Reopening Requirements and Recommendations: Intended to provide requirements and recommendations to Kansas nursing facilities regarding COVID-19 testing and the reopening of their homes to visitors and services, using a phased approach based on information from Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)  
<https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1302/KDADS-Nursing-Facility-Reopening-Guidance-PDF--6-12-2020>
- KDADS created an Isolation and Quarantine Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)  
<https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/DocumentCenter/View/134/Isolation--Quarantine-Guidance-and-FAQs-PDF---11-4-20?bidId=>

##### *Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services, Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), the Kansas Division of Emergency Management*

- The Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services, KDHE, Kansas Department of Agriculture, and the Kansas Division of Emergency Management collaborated to create the Kansas Resource Guide for COVID-19. The guide is intended share accurate information and resources for the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of Kansas citizens. It can be used to increase both knowledge and availability of resources and services during COVID-19  
<https://www.kdads.ks.gov/docs/default-source/covid-19/kdhe-resource-guide/kansas-resource->

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 8. NH Communications Continued

[guide-for-covid-19.pdf?sfvrsn=8af002ee\\_0](#)

#### *Kansas Department of Commerce*

- The Kansas Department of Commerce created a COVID-19 response website that provides resources, job postings (including healthcare), and announcements from the Office of the Governor Laura Kelly and her administration  
<https://www.kansascommerce.gov/covid-19-response-2>

#### *Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE)*

- KDHE created a map of COVID-19 cases in Kansas containing a variety of data at the state and county level, including nursing home metrics. The nursing home metrics provides a rolling two-week percent positivity rate by county  
<https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/160/COVID-19-in-Kansas>

#### *LeadingAge Kansas*

- Guide to outdoor time for residents during COVID-19  
<https://lks.memberclicks.net/outdoor-time-for-residents>

### **Kentucky (KY)**

#### *Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services*

- Issued guidance titled, "Provider Guidance Update: Phased Reduction of Restrictions for Long Term Care Facilities." The guidance includes information about resuming group activities and communal dining. Beginning September 25, 2020, the two key determinants for resuming recreational and therapeutic group activities and communal dining for all long term care facilities should be 1) adhering to established social distancing guidelines of at least six feet between any two residents and 2) no new resident or staff COVID-19 cases within the past 14 days  
<https://chfs.ky.gov/cv19/LTCFGuidancePhasedRestoration.pdf>
- The Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) developed a long term care (LTC) portal for COVID-19 resources. The "e-storefront" was developed to help LTC providers more easily find CHFS resources online, including guidance memos, FAQs, forms and instructions, and the Kentucky COVID-19 LTC county indicator  
<https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/os/oig/dhc/Pages/cvltc.aspx>

### **Louisiana (LA)**

#### *Patterson Health Care*

- Patterson Health Care in Patterson, Louisiana utilized a resident to help spread reminders to adopt best practices. Patterson has a nursing home resident who was a radio announcer, and he recorded 2-4 minute messages that were played overhead a few times each day to remind staff to choose best practices, such as how to choose the correct personal protective equipment (PPE), wash their hands, and reminders to remain socially distanced

### **Maryland (MD)**

#### *FutureCare Nursing Homes*

- In light of COVID-19, FutureCare has rolled out a robust new telecommunication system. It enables each patient to have remote face to face communications with their loved ones  
<https://futurecare.com/news/new-telecommunication-system-at-futurecare-/328>

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 8. NH Communications Continued

#### *Health Facilities Association of Maryland (HFAM)*

- Provides daily email updates to facilities with information about new Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) or Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance, new Maryland Health Department transmittals, and reminders to submit COVID-19 information daily to CRISP (Chesapeake Regional Information System). They include links to the CMS weekly COVID-19 calls. There have been links to personal protective equipment (PPE) suppliers, available childcare, best practices, etc. They have included supportive letters and YouTube clips from legislators

<https://www.hfam.org/covid-19>

#### *LifeSpan Network*

- Provides long term care providers with COVID-19 resources for the state of Maryland and nationwide via its website. Lifespan is the official Chesapeake Regional Information System for our Patients (CRISP) liaison for Maryland nursing homes

<https://www.lifespan-network.org/coronavirus-resources-long-term-care-providers>

#### *Lorien Health Services*

- Released a CEO letter to families, giving them an update on the current status of positive COVID-19 cases amongst residents and staff in its different nursing centers

<https://www.lorienhealth.com/coronavirus-info>

#### **Massachusetts (MA)**

##### *Executive Office of Health and Human Services/MassHealth*

- Through Mass Health Nursing Facility Bulletin 145, MassHealth is implementing measures to monitor infection control policies employed at nursing facilities to protect against the spread of COVID-19, specifically requiring submission of infection control self-assessment and attestation  
[https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2020/04/28/NF-145.pdf?\\_ga=2.143249136.416337626.1589998387-605714014.1587663503](https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2020/04/28/NF-145.pdf?_ga=2.143249136.416337626.1589998387-605714014.1587663503)
- Through Administrative Bulletin 20-53, MassHealth is establishing supplemental payments for MassHealth-covered nursing facility services. The payments are in part associated with compliance with COVID-19 testing requirements as outlined in the bulletin  
<https://www.mass.gov/doc/administrative-bulletin-20-53-101-cmr-20600-standard-payments-to-nursing-facilities-0/download>  
[https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2020/04/28/NF-145.pdf?\\_ga=2.143249136.416337626.1589998387-605714014.1587663503](https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2020/04/28/NF-145.pdf?_ga=2.143249136.416337626.1589998387-605714014.1587663503)  
<https://www.mass.gov/doc/administrative-bulletin-20-53-101-cmr-20600-standard-payments-to-nursing-facilities-0/download>
- The Office of Health and Human Services has issued reopening guidelines on its COVID-19 website  
<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-updates-and-information#reopening-massachusetts->

#### *Massachusetts Senior Care*

- Secured donations of 750 tablets from companies including Amazon, Walmart, Teel Technologies, and Acer, as well as a financial contribution from Personable, Inc., to nursing home residents across the state to facilitate face-to-face communication with their loved ones

during the COVID-19 pandemic

### Minnesota (MN)

#### Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)

- Offers public reporting of congregate facilities with COVID-19 cases updated daily on the MDH website. MDH waits 48 hours to list the congregate facilities to allow the facility to notify residents and families
- Guidance for window visits at long term care facilities  
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/ltcwindows.pdf>
- Outdoor visitation guidance for long term care facilities  
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/ltcOutdoor.pdf>
- Contingency standards of care for COVID-19 personal protective equipment for congregated care settings  
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/ep/surge/crisis/ppegrid.pdf>
- Aerosol-generating procedures and patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19  
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/aerosol.pdf>
- A framework that long term care providers can use to designate people to be essential caregivers, striking a balance between meeting residents' needs and limiting infection risks  
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/ltccaregiver.pdf>

#### The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC)

- The SEOC Health Care Resource Call Center is available for providers to access a special long term care line and receive prompts to reach information related to specific topics such as infection control, personal protective equipment (PPE), COVID-19 testing or licensing issues, as well as triage support in crisis management and finding a COVID-19 support site  
<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem/seoc/Pages/default.aspx>

### Missouri (MO)

#### Center for Practical Bioethics

- *The Center for Practical Bioethics created, "Caring Conversations in a time of COVID-19: Advance Care Planning – Always important and suddenly urgent." This resource provides six steps and related tools to help facilitate advance care planning*  
<https://www.practicalbioethics.org/files/pandemic/CPB-COVID-19-Tip-sheet.pdf>

#### Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program

- Provides guidance and links to the national Long Term Care Ombudsman Resource Center, fact sheets, Q&As, newsletters, and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services communications regarding COVID-19 for long term care facilities, residents, and their families  
<https://health.mo.gov/seniors/ombudsman/covid-19.php>

*State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response*  
*8. NH Communications Continued*

*Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (MDHSS)*

- On August 7, 2020, the MDHSS went live with a new electronic COVID-19 case reporting process. Facilities can now file one report to the state rather than two separate reports as previously required. Facilities will use the new reporting process when they have one or more residents and/or staff test positive for COVID-19. This process eliminates duplication and creates efficiencies for nursing homes. This new electronic reporting system is a replacement for those entities currently emailing, faxing, or mailing a CD-1 form for COVID-19 case information. Organizations that have already developed an electronic reporting process with MDHSS continue to use their process.  
[https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.mohealthcare.com/resource/resmgr/covid-19/Electronic\\_COVID\\_Case\\_Report.pdf](https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.mohealthcare.com/resource/resmgr/covid-19/Electronic_COVID_Case_Report.pdf)
- The MDHSS website provides a local, zip code-level map of positive cases as well as charts/graphs of COVID-19 cases and deaths by age, sex and race. A map of testing locations also is provided, with a hotline number and resources for the public  
<https://www.stlcorona.com>
- MDHSS developed June 15, 2020 guidance considerations for the communal dining and group activities  
<https://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/novel-coronavirus/pdf/communal-dining-and-group-activity-guidance.pdf>
- MDHSS developed June 15, 2020 guidance considerations for long term care facility visits  
<https://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/novel-coronavirus/pdf/visitation-guidance.pdf>

*Missouri University School of Nursing – Quality Improvement Program for Missouri (QIPMO)*

- QIPMO developed a “Back to Basics” handout that outlines visitation restrictions, hand washing, hydration, mobility, hygiene, and mental health  
<https://nursinghomehelp.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Back-to-the-Basics-with-QIPMO.pdf>
- QIPMO is hosting Nursing Home Administrator Support Group calls and Director of Nursing (DON) Support Group calls. These sessions help to keep administrators and DONs up to date regarding state and federal guidelines, updates and resources  
<https://nursinghomehelp.org/educational/important-information-helpful-links-on-coronavirus-covid-19>
- The St. Louis Post Acute Care Long Term Care Roundtable created a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) resource regarding nursing home COVID-19 testing  
<https://nursinghomehelp.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/FAQ-Regarding-Nursing-Home-COVID-Testing-6-17-20-Update.pdf>
- The St. Louis Post Acute Care Long Term Care Roundtable created a resource for non-COVID-19 hospital discharges and COVID-19 testing  
<https://nursinghomehelp.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Testing-Non-COVID-Hospital-Discharge-0601920.pdf>
- The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) contracts with the Missouri University Sinclair School of Nursing QIPMO to assist facilities navigating the reopening process. As part of this assistance, QIPMO created a new group, the COVID-19 Accountability Team. The group will help facilities with testing, determine whether a facility “qualifies” to move to additional phases of reopening and help with other issues or questions that may arise as facilities begin to reopen

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 8. NH Communications Continued

<https://nursinghomehelp.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/QIPMO-Reopening-Launch-Intro.pdf>

#### Montana (MT)

##### *Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC)*

- Provides infection control tools and resources for providers via long term care email listserv and weekly conference calls in coordination with the Montana Department of Health and Human Services
- Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Bureau APIC Chapter, Pam Webb  
[pwebb@bresnan.net](mailto:pwebb@bresnan.net)

##### *State of Montana*

- The State Emergency Coordination Center website provides COVID-19-related epidemiologic data and situational reports updated daily  
<https://covid19.mt.gov>

#### Nebraska (NE)

##### *Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services - Medicaid*

- Nebraska Medicaid will host its quarterly nursing facility call on September 14, 2020, 2-3 PM Central Time. Discussion topics will include: COVID-19 updates; introduction of Nikki Bautista; updates regarding changes in Minimum Data Set (MDS) effective October 1, 2020; Civil Money Penalty Grant Program – Communication devices and 2020 grants; reconciliation of Fiscal Year 2019-2020. To join the call, dial 1-888-820-1398, Attendee Code: 2636847#  
<http://dhhs.ne.gov/Documents/NF%20Call%20Details.pdf>
- Nebraska Medicaid will host regular conference calls to provide updates on its response to COVID-19. To join the call, please dial 877-399-0501, Attendee Code: 8559164#. Calls are held on the third Tuesday of every month  
<http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Medicaid-Providers.aspx>

#### Nevada (NV)

##### *Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health*

- Skilled nursing facilities and assisted living facilities were contacted to assess personal protective equipment (PPE) needs and prepared an inventory of facilities with PPE requests

#### New Jersey (NJ)

##### *Deaf and Hard of Hearing COVID Communication Card*

- Communication cards in English and Spanish are available that enable deaf or hard of hearing patients or care partners to communicate COVID-19-related related symptoms and potentially related exposure  
[https://nj.gov/humanservices/documents/covid/Corona%20Virus%20Card%20-%202%20up-RB\\_v2.pdf](https://nj.gov/humanservices/documents/covid/Corona%20Virus%20Card%20-%202%20up-RB_v2.pdf)  
<https://nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/assets/documents/DDHH%20CVcard-WEB-SP.pdf>

##### *New Jersey Department of Health*

- Provided daily COVID-19 updates, including COVID-19 cases by age and number of hospitalizations  
[https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/COVID\\_Confirmed\\_Case\\_Summary.pdf](https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/COVID_Confirmed_Case_Summary.pdf)



## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 8. NH Communications Continued

#### *New Jersey Department of Health, Manatt Health*

- Rapid assessment of New Jersey's COVID-19 response targeted toward the long term care system resulted in a set of actionable recommendations over the near-term (next four months) and intermediate to longer-term (5+ months) aimed at improving the quality, resilience and safety of the state's long term care delivery system now and for the future  
[https://d31hzlhk6di2h5.cloudfront.net/20200603/ca/d9/da/fc/201e7410ca8c06560498e758/Manatt\\_Recommendations\\_New\\_Jersey\\_LTC\\_Resilience\\_6-2-2020\\_final\\_2.pdf](https://d31hzlhk6di2h5.cloudfront.net/20200603/ca/d9/da/fc/201e7410ca8c06560498e758/Manatt_Recommendations_New_Jersey_LTC_Resilience_6-2-2020_final_2.pdf)

#### *New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH), New Jersey Poison Control Center*

- A COVID-19 hotline is staffed by health care providers to answer questions and address concerns. The Poison Control Center works closely with the NJDOH to stay up-to-date on new or changing information, if people think they have been exposed to COVID-19  
<https://www.njpies.org/coronavirus>

#### *Official Site of the State of New Jersey*

- The COVID-19 HUB website provides a county-based data dashboard, COVID-19 frequently asked questions (FAQs), a jobs portal, symptom checks, and state based updates  
<https://covid19.nj.gov>

### **New Mexico (NM)**

#### *New Mexico Ombudsman Program*

- The long term care ombudsman communicates directly with residents and families of those who have died from or contracted COVID-19
- Town Halls are used to answer questions from the public and family members and educate on resident rights, family councils and their importance and impact, technology innovations, Create Connect, and the ombudsman program
- The ombudsman is setting up a process to track and analyze the use of tablets in long term care facilities
- A tiered approach to volunteering creates a fast track to increase volunteer capacity

#### *New Mexico State Entities (Survey Agency, Health and Human Services, Aging and Long term Services, the Health Care Association)*

- State entities hold weekly 30-minute calls to support communication between nursing homes, assisted living, and intermediate care facilities for intellectually/developmentally disabled individuals with immediate needs

#### *State of New Mexico*

- Hosts weekly calls with nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and skilled nursing facilities to identify gaps in knowledge, training, and personal protective equipment (PPE) issues, provide updates on the current state of operations, and address staff shortages and fears

### **New York (NY)**

#### *New York City (NYC) Health*

- Released a guide to well-being and emotional support to reduce stress and help manage the feeling of being overwhelmed, sad, anxious and afraid during an infectious illness outbreak such as COVID-19

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 8. NH Communications Continued

- Trained professional volunteers are made available to the public at New York’s COVID-19 Emotional Support Helpline  
<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-mental-health.page>

#### *New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH)*

- The COVID-19 Weekly Healthcare Provider Update provides New York State health care providers with a consolidated update of guidance released by the NYSDOH related to the COVID-19 pandemic response. The site shows only current guidance for any given topic and is updated to reflect new guidance  
<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/05/covid19-provider-update-compilation-5.18.20.1127a.pdf>
- Governor Cuomo announced the implementation of a new Early Warning Dashboard to monitor and review how the virus is being contained on an ongoing basis  
<https://forward.ny.gov/early-warning-monitoring-dashboard>

#### *New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA)*

- The Reimagine State Agency Partnership was formed to recommend best practices for Ombudsmen to connect with families, engage volunteers, increase information sharing and expand services to nursing homes to purchase tablets, webcams, headphones, and other accessories to help residents stay connected with family and the Long Term Care Ombudsman during the COVID-19 crisis and beyond  
[https://www.health.ny.gov/press/releases/2020/2020-07-17\\_services\\_for\\_long\\_term\\_care\\_residents.htm](https://www.health.ny.gov/press/releases/2020/2020-07-17_services_for_long_term_care_residents.htm)

### **North Carolina (NC)**

#### *North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS)*

- NCDHHS created the Supporting Our Long-Term Care Facilities During COVID-19 Fact Sheet that outlines COVID-19 challenges and provides NCDHHS actions and guidance to address each challenge  
<https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/info-for/health-care/Supporting-Our-Long-Term-Care-Facilities.pdf>
- NCDHHS released, “What to Expect: Response to New COVID-19 Cases or Outbreaks in Long Term Care Settings” on September 4, 2020. The resource captures relevant actions a nursing home should take when encountering new COVID infections  
[https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/guidance/healthcare/What\\_To\\_Expect\\_Response\\_to\\_COVID19\\_Cases\\_Long\\_Term\\_Care.pdf](https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/guidance/healthcare/What_To_Expect_Response_to_COVID19_Cases_Long_Term_Care.pdf)

### **North Dakota (ND)**

#### *Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI) St. Alexius Health - Garrison, ND*

- Facility places contact time for cleaning and disinfecting products in large numbers on side of each bottle to keep that time more present in the mind of those using the products

#### *Great Plains Quality Innovation Network (QIN)*

- With so many meetings and trainings scheduled every day, it is a challenge for organizations to attend them all. Great Plains Quality Innovation Network (QIN) staff have been sharing their meeting notes from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) National COVID-19 Nursing Home Weekly Meeting via email to nursing home colleagues in North Dakota and South

## *State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response*

### *8. NH Communications Continued*

Dakota. Nursing home colleagues have been very appreciative of this action

#### *North Dakota Health Information Exchange (HIE)*

- Works with Department of Health to identify addresses for patients being tested to track disease spread where they live rather than where they sought health care; when there are positives, they can look at patient history to project what the disease manifestation might be
- Creates notifications to the state epidemiologist for positive tests to start contact tracing and to track hospital admissions and discharges (in development)
- Onboards providers to have the electronic medical record (EMR) connect to the state lab system
- Works with EMR vendors to add occupation and employer to the feed sent to the HIE to assist with contact tracing

#### *North Dakota Office of the Governor Doug Burgum, North Dakota Department of Health, ProudCrowd*

- The Care19 app was developed in North Dakota and stores the location of any place a person visits for 10 minutes or more. If an individual tests positive for COVID-19, it assists with contact tracing <https://ndresponse.gov/covid-19-resources/care19>

#### *North Dakota Reuniting Families & Residents Task Force/Committee*

- Task force of North Dakota nursing home residents, staff, leadership, and family members working towards opening of visitation and social support for nursing home residents. Task force is led by Chris Larson, resident of Luther Memorial Home in Mayville, ND <https://www.grandforksherald.com/newsmd/coronavirus/6497326-New-task-force-to-explore-safe-nursing-home-visitation-in-North-Dakota>  
<https://www.kvrr.com/2020/05/27/live-long-term-care-center-task-force>

#### *The State of North Dakota Hospital Coordination and Vulnerable Population Protection Plan 2020*

- The COVID-19 Pandemic Response plan was drafted to ensure that hospitals and communities have resources to handle a potential surge of COVID-19 patients. The plan provides the framework for the state of North Dakota in collaboration with hospitals, long term care facilities, the North Dakota National Guard (NDNG), and other state and local agencies to serve the health care needs of citizens with COVID-19 that require hospitalization. A six-point plan identifies key actions that will guide the state, hospitals, and care facilities through a tiered system <https://ndresponse.gov/sites/www/files/documents/covid-19/Additional%20Resources/Hospitals%20and%20VP3%20FINAL.pdf>

#### *Valley Senior Living on Columbia, Grand Forks*

- Valley Senior Living implemented a strike team and procedure for communicating a COVID-19 positive resident. The procedure outlines when the notification occurs and by whom, who to contact immediately (including phone numbers), and the use of walkie talkies to notify staff internally. The document outlines when to call huddles, personal protective equipment (PPE) utilization, hand hygiene, and communication for the resident families. The procedure then outlines the communication to the COVID-19 Care Team, Contact Tracing Team, Social Services notification to families, Operations to perform Zoom huddles with IDT and COVID-19 Command Team for briefing, as well as communication for Environmental Services

## **Ohio (OH)**

### *Ohio Department of Health*

- COVID-19 education/resources are made available through a website. Selected topics include basic care guidelines, infection control/resident care posters, basic infection control guidelines, nursing home infection control preventionist training, and links to resources from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)  
<https://aging.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/aging/care-and-living/coronavirus-response#1566596-those-serving-older-ohioans>

### *Ohio Health Care Association*

- The following steps are being implemented to ramp up COVID-19 testing of residents and staff of nursing homes to better prevent the spread of the disease among some of Ohio's most vulnerable residents  
<https://www.ohca.org/docs/documents/5963/Testing%20in%20Nursing%20Homes%20Final%2005.26.2020.pdf>
- Statewide organization providing updates on most current and authoritative information on COVID-19 relevant to facilities in Ohio  
[https://www.ohca.org/covid19\\_1](https://www.ohca.org/covid19_1)

### *Ohio Hospital Association (OHA)*

- OHA is coordinating COVID-19 communications and protocols between state and federal agencies and Ohio's health care delivery network. OHA previously partnered with the Ohio Department of Health to develop a regional emergency preparedness network and to lead the Ohio Emerging Pathogen Coalition established specifically to coordinate response to pathogens new to Ohio  
<https://ohiohospitals.org/Patient-Safety-Quality/Innovation-Leadership/COVID-19-Emerging-Pathogens>
- OHA provides COVID-19 education and resources on selected topics, including basic care and infection control guidelines, infection control/resident care posters, nursing home Infection control preventionist training, and links to resources from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)  
<https://aging.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/aging/care-and-living>

### *Office of the Governor Mike DeWine*

- The Governor, Lieutenant Governor, agency directors, and other state leaders provide updates on COVID-19 in Ohio during near-daily press conferences
- In March, Ohio launched a COVID-19 Hotline to address questions from Ohio citizens, providers, and others in the medical community

## *State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response*

### *8. NH Communications Continued*

#### *State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy*

- The Ohio Board of Pharmacy temporarily expanded multi-dose packaged prescriptions from a maximum 31-day fill to a 60-day fill, which will decrease pharmacy deliveries to nursing homes. This will reduce COVID-19 exposure from outside visitors and will also ensure that nursing home residents have sufficient medications during the pandemic  
<https://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/Documents/Pubs/Special/COVID19Resources/Temporary%20Expansion%20of%20the%20Maximum%20Days%20Supply%20for%20Multidose%20Packaging.pdf>

#### **Oklahoma (OK)**

##### *Oklahoma State Department of Health*

- A COVID-19 website was created for additional notifications and resources, including 77 swab-pods set-up around the state  
<https://coronavirus.health.ok.gov>

#### **Oregon (OR)**

##### *Oregon Office of Oversight and Quality*

- The Oregon Office of Oversight and Quality (the state survey agency) wrote a letter to health care providers to express appreciation and share results of its technical assistance review. The survey agency also partnered with the health care authority to provide supportive, non-punitive messaging to providers  
<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/DISEASES/CONDITIONS/DISEASESAZ/Pages/COVID-19.aspx>

##### *The State of Oregon*

- Developed a media campaign to support health care workers under the tag: #ORHealthcareHeroes

#### **Pennsylvania (PA)**

##### *Pennsylvania Department of Aging, Office of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program*

- Family and friends who are unable to see loved ones living in long term care facilities because of the COVID-19 emergency may struggle with changes in protocol, rights, and policies. The Pennsylvania Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program is available to help with a new statewide resource called Virtual Family Council. The program offers weekly online meetings with a local ombudsman and a team of 10 local experts. Anyone can participate and ask questions, share concerns, or just listen to learn and gather information. The meetings will not only provide an opportunity for dialogue and networking, but updates to resources and policies will be provided as well. The meetings will not address specific issues regarding a resident or a facility  
<https://www.aging.pa.gov/organization/advocacy-and-protection/Pages/Ombudsman.aspx>

##### *PHCA-Pennsylvania Health Care Association*

- Developed a recommended long term care facilities preparedness assessment for COVID-19 in checklist format for communication  
<https://www.phca.org/covid19>

#### **South Carolina (SC)**

##### *PruittHealth*

- PruittHealth set up an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) that is active 24 hours a day, seven

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 8. NH Communications Continued

days week. The EOC is available to answer questions or to schedule a video chat with loved ones in any PruittHealth center

<http://www.pruitthealth.com>

#### *South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC)*

- Developed Closed Window Visit Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for nursing homes and assisted living facilities

<https://www.scdhec.gov/sites/default/files/media/document/NH-CRCF-Closed-Window-Visit-FAQs.pdf>

#### **South Dakota (SD)**

##### *Avera Prince of Peace Retirement Community*

- Avera Prince of Peace Retirement Community created a visitation booth that separates residents from their visitors by a piece of plexiglass. Family members can contact the nursing home to reserve a time for the booth

<https://www.dakotane.ws.com/content/news/Avera-Prince-of-Peace-Retirement-Community-opens-visitation-booth-571012061.html>

##### *Great Plains Quality Innovation Network (QIN)*

- With so many meetings and trainings scheduled every day, it is a challenge for organizations to attend them all. Great Plains QIN staff have been sharing their meeting notes from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) National COVID-19 Nursing Home Weekly Meeting via email to nursing home colleagues in North Dakota and South Dakota. Nursing home colleagues have been very appreciative of this action

##### *South Dakota Department of Health*

- The Care19 app (developed in North Dakota) helps users log and categorize locations they had visited for at least 10 minutes, assists in contact tracing, and is a tool to stay informed on potential exposure

<https://covid.sd.gov/care19app.aspx>

##### *Tieszan Memorial Home*

- Tieszan Memorial Home used its social media page to inform community and resident's families about COVID 19 mass testing. The intent was for families and residents' representatives to have an opportunity to read the information prior to the personal call to obtain consent for the testing. This provided time for representatives to gather any questions they might have, ultimately contributing to a quicker process in obtaining consents

#### **Texas (TX)**

##### *Office of the Governor Greg Abbott*

- The Governor's Report to Open Texas includes a recommendation that nursing facilities immediately inform all those who have interacted with residents of facilities with positive patients to further limit the spread of the virus

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Report.pdf>

*The National Forum of ESRD Networks*

- Released best practice and communication tool: “COVID-19 Communication between Skilled Nursing Facilities/Personal Care Homes and Dialysis Facilities”  
<https://esrdnetworks.org/education/sharing-best-practices-in-the-kidney-community/covid-19-communication-between-snf-pch-dialysis-facilities-communication-06-19-2020/covid-19-communication-between-snf-pch-dialysis-facilities/view>

*Texas Health and Human Services Commission*

- On August 26 and September 9, 2020, Senator Judith Zaffirini hosted two public Facebook Live discussions about long term care. The Texas Health and Human Services Commission compiled the questions from these discussions, provided responses and updated the information based on recently released visitation rules  
<https://hhs.texas.gov/about-hhs/communications-events/news/2020/09/qa-previous-ltc-webinars-hosted-senator-zaffirini>
- The Texas Health and Human Services Commission sends communications to its regulated nursing homes through surveyor staff. State and regional levels speak with the nursing facilities in their regions daily
- The Texas Health and Human Services Commission Regulatory Services hosts biweekly calls with long term care provider associations to communicate policy changes and answer questions
- The agency has also produced over 100 guidance communications to providers, including letters, webinars, alerts, emergency rules, and temporary suspensions of regulatory requirements to give providers flexibility in responding to COVID-19
- On June 30, 2020, Texas announced \$9 million in federal funding for nursing facilities to implement infection control projects to protect residents and staff from the spread of COVID-19. Starting July 1, nursing facility providers in Texas are encouraged to submit applications to the Health and Human Services Commission to receive this federal funding  
<https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/governor-abbott-hhsc-announce-9-million-for-nursing-facility-infection-control-projects-to-prevent-covid-19>
- On October 19, 2020, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission released Provider Letter (PL) 20-44 (replaces PL 20-38) titled, “COVID-19 Response - Expansion of Reopening Visitation.” The letter describes expanded emergency rules to allow for essential caregiver visits, salon services visits, and limited indoor and outdoor visitation in nursing facilities. It also includes a new attestation form specifically designed for nursing facilities  
<https://apps.hhs.texas.gov/providers/communications/2020/letters/PL2020-44.pdf>
- Updated on October 23, 2020, Texas Health and Human Services Commission Long-term Care Regulation issued Frequently Asked Questions regarding the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services COVID-19 testing requirements  
<https://hhs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/services/health/coronavirus-covid-19/nf-cms-mandated-covid-testing-faqs.pdf>

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 8. NH Communications Continued

#### *Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) Long-Term Care Regulatory Division (LTCR)*

- The Texas HHSC posted slides from a September 2, 2020, presentation that provides helpful information for Texas nursing homes. The information is inclusive of: government text alerts, online training, N-95 mask availability, Relief Fund information, Doctors Without Borders assistance, testing, and more  
<https://hhs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/doing-business-with-hhs/providers/long-term-care/nf/nf-covid-updates-qa-webinar-sept-2-2020.pdf>

#### **Vermont (VT)**

##### *Vermont Department of Health*

- The Department is proactively contacting all long term care facilities, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and senior housing facilities to review strategies to prevent COVID-19 infection and to develop plans to respond immediately if an infection is identified
- If a case of COVID-19 is associated with a long term care facility, an epidemiology team is quickly activated. The team contacts the facility to provide recommendations and infection control support and begins contact tracing to determine the source of the infection and how it may be spreading
- The team contacts the facility to provide recommendations and infection control support and begins contact tracing to determine the source of the infection and how it may be spreading  
<https://www.healthvermont.gov/response/coronavirus-covid-19/long-term-care-and-group-living-settings>

#### **Virginia (VA)**

##### *LeadingAge Virginia*

- Released the COVID-19 Toolkit: Resources for a Long Term Care Community in Crisis  
[https://cdn.ymaws.com/leadingagevirginia.org/resource/resmgr/docs/covid-19/Virginia\\_COVID-19\\_Member\\_Too.pdf](https://cdn.ymaws.com/leadingagevirginia.org/resource/resmgr/docs/covid-19/Virginia_COVID-19_Member_Too.pdf)

##### *Virginia Department of Health*

- VDH created Nursing Home Guidance for Phased Reopening which provides Virginia-specific guidance providing practical strategies for nursing homes to implement phased and safe reopening plans  
<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/182/2020/06/VDH-Nursing-Home-Guidance-for-Phased-Reopening-6.18.2020.pdf>

##### *Virginia Health Care Association–Virginia Center for Assisted Living (VHCA-VCAL)*

- VHCA-VCAL created a Timeline for COVID-19 Regulations and Guidance that provides a color coded timeline of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), and state-issued guidance and related updates or revisions  
<https://www.vhca.org/files/2020/05/Timeline-for-COVID-19-Regulation-and-Guidance-05112020.pdf>



## West Virginia (WV)

### Genesis Healthcare

- Began providing the latest Coronavirus updates on their website landing page to increase transparency. The updates cover routine COVID-19 point-of-care testing, contact tracing, and community transmission risk. Updates also include family video/audio conferencing information <https://www.genesishcc.com/coronavirus-updates>

### Office of Health Facilities and Licensure (OHFLAC)

- The Nursing Home and Assisted Living Residences Reopening Plan Frequently Asked Questions document released on June 15, 2020 contains information about the reopening plan for nursing homes and assisted living residences <https://files.constantcontact.com/f9656c64601/83862bd7-4345-4df3-89e3-31cf32512295.pdf>
- Governor Jim Justice announced that beginning on June 17, 2020, visitation at nursing homes may resume at facilities that have had no cases of COVID-19 for the 14 consecutive day period immediately preceding June 17, 2020 (i.e., since June 3, 2020), provided that specific general framework is followed by qualifying facilities. For facilities that will not qualify to open on June 17, 2020, such facilities may resume visitation upon achieving 14 consecutive days with no COVID-19 cases at such facilities, provided that the specified general framework outlined in the reopening plan is followed <https://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Documents/Nursing-Home-COVID19-Reopening-Plan-June-2020.pdf>

### Princeton Health Care Center

- Princeton Health Care Center has started providing a daily update on their current COVID -19 outbreak. Administrator Stefanie Compton provided the following update on July 27, 2020: Since March there have been thirty individuals (residents and employees combined) who have tested positive for COVID-19. All current residents who are symptomatic and/or confirmed cases are being isolated to specific COVID-19 designated care areas. Those individuals are being cared for by designated/dedicated staff members. We completed our third round of mass testing on July 23, 2020, in which 279 residents and employees were tested. Individual residents and/or their responsible parties will be notified when indicated. Any identified positive staff member will be required to quarantine to home as well as other interventions as outlined by the local health officials. We anticipate and are preparing for weekly mass testing to continue until such time it is felt that it is no longer needed. We have requested additional assistance from local and state health officials, and also requested assistance of the National Guard for testing purposes <https://www.phcconline.org>

## *State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response*

### *8. NH Communications Continued*

#### *Stonerise Healthcare*

- Stonerise Healthcare has created a comprehensive web page with the latest news on COVID-19 at its facilities, including location status, media resources, how you can help, and family resources. The page also shares its safety promise, along with visitor guidelines link <https://stonerisehealthcare.com/coronavirus-updates>

#### *Virginia Department of Health (VDH)*

- Virginia's official COVID-19 exposure notification app, COVIDWISE, launched on August 5, 2020. Virginia is the first state to deploy an exposure notification app in the United States using the Apple/Google Bluetooth Low Energy framework which affords greater privacy and security to the user. The VDH and the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association (VHHA) are committed to transparency related to privacy and acknowledge that no personally identifiable information or location data is ever collected, stored, or tracked through COVIDWISE. Use of the app is voluntary and can be deleted by the user at any time <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/covidwise>

#### **Wisconsin (WI)**

##### *LeadingAge Wisconsin*

- The organization created a template that facilities can use to inform stakeholders about stay-at-home policies <http://www.leadingagewi.org/members-subscribers/coronavirus-covid-19-information-resources>

## 9. PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE): ACTIONS TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO PPE

### Alabama (AL)

*Office of the Lieutenant Governor Will Ainsworth, Business Council of Alabama, Chamber of Commerce Association of Alabama, AlabamaWorks!, Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama, Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce, Southeast AlabamaWorks!, West AlabamaWorks!*

- Alabama has created an online personal protective equipment (PPE), employment, and material resource guide for providers to find available supplies, disinfectants, PPE, employer/employee guidance, and more external pertinent links  
<https://tuscaloosachamber.com/business-toolkit>

### Arizona (AZ)

*Pioneer Health Group*

- To increase the supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) at the nursing home level, visit hardware stores, which have large supplies of PPE (coveralls to supplement gowns, eye protection, face shields, shoe covers, masks, and gloves)

### Arkansas (AR)

*Walmart Foundation*

- On March 21, 2020, the Walmart Foundation announced a \$5 million grant to the COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund, a program set up to support the World Health Organization (WHO). In part, the fund will enable WHO to send essential supplies, such as personal protective equipment (PPE) to front line health workers

### California (CA)

*California Association of Health Facilities (CAHF)*

- CAHF developed the “Just-In-Time Respiratory Protection Program” to assist nursing homes in responding to events or situations, such as COVID-19, that will require them to implement a program for the respiratory protection of their employees. The nine-page guide contains a step-by-step process to get nursing homes prepared to set up and implement a plan to protect their employees, including a Fit-Test video to help prepare staff to use personal protective equipment (PPE)  
<https://www.cahf.org/Portals/29/DisasterPreparedness/pandemic/JustInTimeRespProtProgram.pdf>

### Colorado (CO)

*Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF)*

- Prioritized facilities for personal protective equipment and testing distribution  
<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/hcpf/COVID>

### Connecticut (CT)

*Battelle Critical Care Decontamination System (CCDS)™*

- Performed decontamination of the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) to address personal protective equipment (PPE) shortage (cleans up to 80,000 units/day)
- Offered free to health care personnel
- Provided in eight locations  
<https://www.battelle.org/inb/battelle-ccds-for-covid19-satellite-locations>

### **District of Columbia (DC)**

#### *Office of the Mayor Muriel Bowser*

- Provided guidelines on universal masking and use of face coverings for residents, health care workers, staff, and visitors in long term care facilities  
[https://dchealth.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/doh/publication/attachments/DC\\_Health\\_COVID-19\\_LTCF\\_Coverings\\_and\\_Masks\\_2020.04.14.pdf](https://dchealth.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/doh/publication/attachments/DC_Health_COVID-19_LTCF_Coverings_and_Masks_2020.04.14.pdf)

### **Delaware (DE)**

#### *The Delaware Collaboration with Community Volunteers Ombudsman Office Collaboration*

- Volunteers called “Help for Healthcare Delaware” made masks for all non-clinical staff, generating 20,000 masks for all facilities

### **Florida (FL)**

#### *Florida Health Care Association (FHCA)*

- Conducted a personal protective equipment (PPE) train-the-trainer webinar on April 8, 2020  
[https://www.fhca.org/facility\\_operations/coronavirus](https://www.fhca.org/facility_operations/coronavirus)

#### *Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM)*

- The Division made another major push for personal protective equipment (PPE) to support health care workers in long term care facilities. This includes 4 million masks, 200,000 face shields, and 500,000 gloves  
<https://floridadisaster.org/covid19>

#### *Orlando Health System*

- Orlando Health System implemented “COVID Safety Officers (CSOs)” in all its facilities. This health system includes acute care, two long term care facilities and physician practices. Every shift, a designated staff person is the CSO tasked to observe employees donning and doffing personal protective equipment (PPE), performing appropriate hand hygiene, and assuring that all other infection control and prevention policies and procedures are being followed. This has provided a level of reassurance to the long term care facilities in the greater Orlando area when accepting transfers from acute care from this health system

### **Georgia (GA)**

#### *Georgia Department of Public Health*

- Georgia Department of Public Health initiated a new process on July 20, 2020 to request Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). The request is made through an online portal, and after review the request status is emailed. The PPE is transported through the United Parcel Service (UPS)  
<https://www.gdpha.info/Files/UPS%20Transportation%20of%20Pre-Allocated%20Packages%20of%20PPE%207.10.2020.pdf>

#### *Georgia Health Care Association (GHCA)*

- The GHCA emergency preparedness leader has been in constant contact with the Georgia Emergency Preparedness Command Center and stands ready to assist with all facets of needs from personal protective equipment (PPE) to all other equipment needed  
<https://www.ghca.info>

*Office of the Governor Brian Kemp*

- Governor Brian Kemp signed a bill that provided additional measures for the protection of elderly persons. House Bill 987 increases the maximum fines for violation by health care facilities, addresses staffing and training amongst other improvements  
<https://legislativenavigator.ajc.com/#bills/HB/987>

**Idaho (ID)**

*Idaho Health Care Association, Idaho Department of Health (IDOH)*

- IDOH has taken the lead in coordination between Idaho nursing homes and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies

**Illinois (IL)**

*Health Care Council of Illinois (HCCI)*

- Developed COVID-19 Resource page, updated daily with information regarding state and federal regulations, infection control, personal protective equipment (PPE), and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) information  
<http://www.hccil.org/covid-19>

*Office of the Governor J.B. Pritzker Task Force*

- Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker issued a Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation in response to the ongoing COVID-19 situation to assist Illinois agencies in coordinating state and federal resources, including the Strategic National Stockpile of medicines and protective equipment, to support local governments in preparation for any action that may be necessary related to the potential impact of COVID-19  
<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/gov/Documents/APPROVED%20-%20Coronavirus%20Disaster%20Proc%20WORD.pdf>
- The Governor provides a COVID-19 update briefing daily
- Drive-through testing sites are available throughout the state; all health care workers and residents with symptoms are eligible for testing  
<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/gov/COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx>

**Indiana (IN)**

*Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH)*

- An ISDH waiver issued guidance for creating COVID-19 long term care facilities:
  - Waiving facility staffing requirements
  - Enhancing reimbursement rates for COVID-19 facilities by 50 percent
  - Providing liability protection
  - Giving data support to help hospitals identify post-acute COVID-19 facilities for transfer
  - Providing infection control teams to train facilities on COVID-19 testing
  - Provisions all necessary personal protective equipment (PPE) as a “priority” facility, similar to hospitals  
[https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN\\_COVID-19%20State%20Requirements%20and%20Guidance%20for%20COVID%20dedicated%20faciliti....pdf](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19%20State%20Requirements%20and%20Guidance%20for%20COVID%20dedicated%20faciliti....pdf)

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 9. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Actions to Improve Access to PPE Continued

- Indiana has prioritized long term care facilities for the distribution of PPE. As part of this, all long term care facilities report their daily PPE stores in our EMResource database. When data shows that facilities have decreased supplies of PPE, local health departments will deliver PPE directly to the facility. If local health departments have limited supplies, ISDH will deliver PPE from its stores directly to the facility. From the time of the emergency declaration, ISDH has been able to respond to every PPE request from long term care facilities  
[https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN\\_COVID-19\\_LTC\\_PPE\\_Request\\_Guidance\\_04.17.20.pdf](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19_LTC_PPE_Request_Guidance_04.17.20.pdf)

#### Iowa (IA)

##### *Iowa Department of Public Health*

- Provides support through emergency response team available (for example, personal protective equipment [PPE] supply)  
<https://idph.iowa.gov/Emerging-Health-Issues/Novel-Coronavirus/Long-Term-Care>

#### Kansas (KS)

##### *Kansas Health Care Association (KHCA)*

- The KHCA created the Kansas Health Care Facility Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Request Process Algorithm to outline the PPE request process for Kansas facilities  
<https://files.constantcontact.com/64f0b60b701/922ff4ca-9d2f-437e-9f2a-47f3450d0b4d.pdf>

#### Louisiana (LA)

##### *Louisiana Department of Health (LDH)*

- Assembled the LDH Nursing Home Facility Toolkit for nursing home support. This toolkit provides state and best practice guidance for personal protective equipment (PPE), information about an option for safely sanitizing N95 masks for re-use, staffing resources, and testing recommendations, along with a variety of pertinent contact numbers  
[http://ldh.la.gov/assets/medicaid/hss/docs/Coronavirus\\_2019/LDH\\_NH\\_Facility\\_Toolkit.pdf](http://ldh.la.gov/assets/medicaid/hss/docs/Coronavirus_2019/LDH_NH_Facility_Toolkit.pdf)
- Created a PPE State Supply Hotline at 225-325-5900 so nursing homes can be informed as supplies become available. This phone line is available seven days a week from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Central Time  
<http://ldh.la.gov/index.cfm/page/3884>

#### Maine (ME)

##### *Maine Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)*

- MDHHS boosted payments to congregate care facilities in response to COVID-19 through an Extraordinary Circumstance Allowance
- MaineCare will pay extra costs associated with COVID-19, including staffing, supplies, and personal protective equipment, with \$10.1 million in state and federal funds to support facilities  
<https://www.maine.gov/governor/mills/news/mills-administration-takes-steps-support-nursing-homes-response-covid-19-2020-03-26>

##### *Maine Health Care Association*

- Statewide Think Tank Friday meeting
  - Small group of corporate leaders in partnership with the Maine Health Care Association collaborated on sharing “vetted” vendors as they looked to procure PPE for their facilities  
[https://www.mehca.org/files/QualityRegs/MHCA\\_PPE%20SUPPLIERS\\_051520.pdf](https://www.mehca.org/files/QualityRegs/MHCA_PPE%20SUPPLIERS_051520.pdf)

### **Minnesota (MN)**

*Minnesota Department of Health, Regional Health Care Preparedness Coordinators*

- Nursing homes communicate personal protective equipment (PPE) shortages or supply chain issues to Minnesota Department of Health Regional Health Care Preparedness Coordinators (RHPC)

### **Mississippi (MS)**

*Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) Epidemiology Department*

- Partner with MSDH Licensure and Certification with frequent contact
- Provide consultation to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in nursing homes
- Assist with personal protective equipment (PPE) attainment
- Provide daily follow-up to nursing homes that have COVID-19 cases
- Partner with Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA)
- Nursing homes are to request PPE from their county Emergency Management Agency (EMA) contact

<https://www.msema.org/county-ema>

### **Missouri (MO)**

*State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA)*

- Nursing homes experiencing a shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE) can contact SEMA to obtain immediate short term PPE supplies

### **Nevada (NV)**

*Nevada COVID-19 Task Force*

- The Nevada COVID task force has set up a manufacturing and retooling program for manufacturing companies to learn how they can help provide PPE in Nevada. The interested business completes an online survey which helps to determine if the business with potential competencies and capacity to contribute PPE

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/COVIDPPEM>

### **New Jersey (NJ)**

*Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)*

- By the beginning of July 2020, each facility will receive two separate packages containing a seven-day supply of eye protection, surgical masks, gowns, and gloves. Each package will be individualized for each nursing home based upon their level of staffing. Items are blue tarp material

<https://www.fema.gov/news-release/2020/04/30/personal-protective-equipment-medicare-and-medicaid-nursing-homes>

*Office of the Governor Phil Murphy*

- The state of New Jersey has assembled a Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Wholesale Supplier Registry Public Listing. The listing provides information about vendors and products for the purpose of assisting private businesses and organizations in New Jersey access to potential suppliers for PPE and other COVID-19 related goods and services

<https://forms.business.nj.gov/ppevendor/list>

### **New Mexico (NM)**

#### *State of New Mexico*

- Personal protective equipment (PPE) reporting portal established to monitor PPE levels statewide pursuant to Executive Order
- Nursing homes are to request PPE from their county Emergency Manager; working in conjunction with the Department of Homeland Security, critical PPE is delivered to the point of request

### **North Carolina (NC)**

#### *Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Governor Roy Cooper, Department of Public Safety Division of Emergency Management*

- As of August 6, 2020, the state has distributed approximately 3.5 million cloth face coverings, 4.5 million procedure masks, and a significant amount of personal protective equipment (PPE) to targeted settings, including long term care facilities, across the state  
<https://governor.nc.gov/news/state-north-carolina-has-distributed-35-million-cloth-face-coverings-45-million-procedure-masks#:~:text=Across%20the%20State-State%20of%20North%20Carolina%20Has%20Distributed%203.5%20Million%20Cloth%20Face,PPE%20Supplies%20Across%20the%20State&text=%E2%80%9CNorth%20Carolina%20has%20taken%20aggressive,%2C%E2%80%9D%20said%20Governor%20Roy%20Cooper.>

### **North Dakota (ND)**

#### *North Dakota Information Technology, EduTech, Gateway to Science, Microsoft Corporation*

- A North Dakota Statewide personal protective equipment (PPE) portal helps distribute PPE across the state. Individuals and organizations with 3D printers, laser cutters, and Computer Numerical Control (CNC) machines can register on the PPE portal to help produce face shields or other high tech solutions to COVID-19. Requests for PPE will be matched with producers close by to deliver products efficiently. Donations, including materials, are used to help cover the cost of supplies  
<https://ndresponse.gov/news/statewide-coalition-launches-personal-protective-equipment-portal-connect-needs-resources>

#### *University of North Dakota Medical School, North Dakota State University (NDSU), Grand Forks County, and SkySkopes*

- A collaboration with NDSU and Grand Forks County is testing drones to deliver medical supplies, check people's temperatures from the air, and sanitize playground equipment  
<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/north-dakota/articles/2020-04-21/drone-company-testing-equipment-to-fight-covid-19>

### **Ohio (OH)**

#### *Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities*

- A Pre-Surge Planning Toolkit for Providers of Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS) includes concept diagrams and tools related to COVID-19; provides resources to support evaluation and re-evaluation of needs and capacity to address future quarantines of people who have been exposed; offers guidelines for isolation of people who are tested or presumed positive; and assists with planning for critical shortages of personal protective equipment (PPE)  
<https://dodd.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/dodd/providers/all-provider-resources/resource-ltss->



## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 9. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Actions to Improve Access to PPE Continued

#### [pre-surge-planning-toolkit](#)

- Resource provides guidance on masks or face coverings in the workplace and COVID-19 frequently asked questions  
<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/resources/general-resources/cloth-masks-or-face-coverings-in-the-workplace>

#### State Medical Board of Ohio, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- Shared CDC website including information on eye protection, isolation gowns, gloves, face masks, N95 respirators, powered air purifying respirators, elastomeric respirators, and ventilators  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/index.html>

#### Oklahoma (OK)

##### Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH)

- The OSDH COVID-19 website was created for additional notifications and resources, including a personal protective equipment (PPE) survey and the ability to compile and submit PPE burn rate data

##### Oklahoma State Ombudsman

- Coordinates and delivers personal protective equipment (PPE) to long term care facilities  
<http://www.okdhs.org/services/aging/Pages/ombudsman.aspx>

#### Pennsylvania (PA)

##### Department of Public Health, Office of the Secretary Rachel Levine

- Effective August 18, 2020, order from the Secretary Rachel Levine directed the state's long term care facilities to develop and implement policies and procedures for the procurement, distribution, and use of personal protective equipment (PPE). The policies must, at a minimum, include the distribution of respirators to staff providing direct patient care to COVID-19-positive and suspected cases. The respirators distributed by each facility must be National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health-approved particulate filtering face piece respirators, or if unavailable, respirators approved by the Food and Drug Administration  
<https://www.leadingagepa.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=LdWEpJPwpt8%3d&portalid=0>

##### Office of the Governor Tom Wolf

- On May 6, 2020, Governor Wolf announced a program to provide free N95 respirator decontamination for long term care providers experiencing a shortage of respirators due to limited availability of personal protective equipment
- The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) is collaborating with Battelle Memorial Institute to deploy a decontamination unit in southeast Pennsylvania that has the capacity to sterilize up to 80,000 N95 respirators per day
- An eligible organization that wishes to use the system for N95 decontamination must register and enter into a use agreement with Battelle, at which time they will receive additional guidance regarding the types of N95s that are allowed and instructions for shipping and delivery

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 9. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Actions to Improve Access to PPE Continued

- The service is available free of charge for use by eligible organizations. The federal government is absorbing 100 percent of the cost. The only cost to an eligible organization is for shipping to and from the site

<https://www.governor.pa.gov/newsroom/gov-wolf-free-n95-decontamination-system-for-healthcare-facilities-first-responders-now-available>

#### Pennsylvania Health Care Association (PHCA)

- PHCA developed a recommended long term care facilities preparedness assessment for COVID-19 in checklist format to track availability of personal protective equipment (PPE) and other supplies

<https://www.phca.org/covid19>

#### South Carolina (SC)

##### South Carolina COVID-19 Emergency Supply Collaborative

- The state established a collaborative between federal, state, and local South Carolina governments and organizations that connects South Carolina health care providers with sources for clinical care equipment, clothing and protection, disinfectants, eyewear and masks, gloves, and hazardous waste handling

<https://sccovid19.org/#criticalneeds>

#### South Dakota (SD)

##### Sanford Health

- Provided instructions on how to sew a face mask, how to make a no-sew face mask, and how to wear a face mask. Volunteers were asked to sew masks for health care personnel

<https://news.sanfordhealth.org/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/how-to-make-face-masks>

#### Tennessee (TN)

##### Tennessee Health Care Association (THCA)

- Developed COVID-19 resources for consumers
- Created guidance for facilities facing personal protective equipment (PPE) shortage
- Developed a PPE request form

<https://www.thca.org/for-consumers/resource-center>

- Posted a toolkit for facility visitor screening

<https://www.thca.org/files/2020/03/FHCA-COVID-19-Visitor-Screening-Toolkit.pdf>

##### COVID-19 Staffing Project

- Volunteers created a website to help hospitals and nursing facilities of all sizes anticipate their staffing and personal protective equipment (PPE) needs for the COVID-19 surge

<https://www.covidstaffing.org>

- Modules included:

- COVID-19 Staffing Needs Calculator: Calculated staffing needs by clinical role as inpatient census increased

<https://www.covidstaffing.org/modules/staffing-needs>

- COVID Response Planner: Planned a phased staffing response to COVID-19, based on available beds, staff, and locations

<https://www.covidstaffing.org/modules/response-planner>

- PPE Needs Calculator: Calculated PPE needs as inpatient census increased

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 9. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Actions to Improve Access to PPE Continued

<https://www.covidstaffing.org/modules/daily-ppe-calculator>

- Staff Skills Surveys: Determined staff skills specific to COVID-19 patient care needs  
<https://www.covidstaffing.org/modules/supply>
- Role Allocation Toolkits: Based on staff and trainee skills, assessed COVID-19 patient care roles where staff members could re-deploy  
<https://www.covidstaffing.org/modules/supply>

#### *Hamilton County*

- Task force meets weekly with nursing homes and assisted living facilities to help them obtain personal protective equipment (PPE) and testing for COVID-19 and antibodies. All Hamilton County hospitals are part of the task force

<http://www.hamiltontn.gov>

#### *Mid-South Emergency Planning Coalition*

- Works with the Memphis Task Force for Skilled Nursing and Assisted Living to obtain personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Developed a request form for skilled nursing facilities to request PPE and posted drive-through testing locations

<http://www.midsouthepc.org>

#### *The Middle Tennessee Regional Healthcare Quality Improvement Collaborative Communication Coalition*

- The Middle Tennessee Regional Healthcare Quality Improvement Collaborative Communication Coalition, a coalition working with Alliant Health Services, formed a task force that meets every other Thursday with representation from multiple counties in the Nashville area. Nursing homes assisted living centers, the Mayor's office, and the Tennessee Department of Health are represented. They are working together to coordinate personal protective equipment, testing, and National Healthcare Safety Network needs, such as assistance needed for enrollment and/or reporting in the COVID-19 module. Providers in the area network to invite other providers. A Senior Quality Advisor at AHS, Julie Clark, [julie.clark@allianthealth.org](mailto:julie.clark@allianthealth.org), is available to assist on connection with this coalition

#### **Texas (TX)**

##### *Office of the Governor Greg Abbott*

- On March 22, 2020, the Governor created the Supply Chain Strike Force to actively acquire personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies and initiate production of PPE. This includes a partnership between the Texas Military Department and Ameritech, which has led to the production and distribution of thousands of masks and PPE supplies to Texas facilities. Throughout the COVID-19 response, nursing facilities with outbreaks have been a prioritized group to receive PPE from the state

<https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/governor-abbott-issues-executive-order-increasing-hospital-capacity-announces-supply-chain-strike-force-for-covid-19-response>

*State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response*

*9. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Actions to Improve Access to PPE Continued*

*Texas Department of Health and Human Services*

- Emergency Rule Enhancements for nursing facilities include that each facility must have plans for obtaining and maintaining a two-week supply of personal protective equipment and resident recovery plans for continuing care when a resident recovers from COVID-19  
<https://hhs.texas.gov/about-hhs/communications-events/news/2020/08/hhsc-allow-limited-visitation-nursing-facilities-long-term-care-facilities>

**Washington (WA)**

*Washington State Entities*

- Established the Washington State COVID-19 Health System Response Management Team, appointed by the Office of the Governor Jay Inslee, to coordinate and optimize health care resources
- Implemented a centralized statewide process to request emergency restocking of personal protective equipment (PPE) and volunteer health care staff to address staffing shortages  
[http://www.wsha.org/wp-content/uploads/WSHA-Presentation-Adm.-Raquel-Bono\\_May-4-2020.pdf](http://www.wsha.org/wp-content/uploads/WSHA-Presentation-Adm.-Raquel-Bono_May-4-2020.pdf)

**Wisconsin (WI)**

*Wisconsin Health Care Association*

- Provides daily COVID-19 updates for members and business partners with a focus on acquiring personal protective equipment (PPE)  
<https://www.whcawical.org>

## 10. PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE): ACTIONS TO IMPROVE UTILIZATION OF PPE

### Alabama (AL)

*State of Alabama, Office of Governor Kay Ivey*

- Issued supplemental emergency proclamation amending the “Safer at Home Order” to include a statewide mask requirement. Individuals will be required to wear a mask or other facial covering when in public and in close contact with other people. This amended order extends until Sunday, November 8, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

<https://governor.alabama.gov/newsroom/2020/08/governor-ivey-issues-amended-safer-at-home-order-6>

### Arizona (AZ)

*Arizona National Guard (AzNG)*

- AzNG has obtained level II and level III reusable (fabric) gowns. AzNG representatives are calling nursing homes to determine need and create a priority list for distribution. In addition, AzNG has created mobile teams to provide training on how to use and maintain the gowns

### Arkansas (AR)

*Arkansas Health Care Association (AHCA), Arkansas Department of Health (ADH)*

- AHCA had ADH’s health care-associated infections preventionist and infectious disease physician present on findings from their COVID-19 visits and answer questions
- The virtual event was open to all nursing homes and assisted living facilities
- Arkansas Department of Human Services Office of Long Term Care were also present

### California (CA)

*California Department of Public Health All Facilities Letters (AFL)*

- Provides resources for skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) on preparing for COVID-19 and a toolkit for management of exposures and recognized cases in SNFs
- The Assessment of California SNFs to Receive Patients with Confirmed COVID-19 provides guidance for SNFs planning to designate a specific wing/unit to care for residents with suspected or confirmed COVID-19

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/CDPH%20Document%20Library/AFL-20-25-Attachment-05-SNF-Assessment-Checklist.pdf>

*Grancell Village of the Jewish Homes for the Aging, Los Angeles County*

- In early May 2020, this facility implemented the use of universal face shields accompanied by face masks for all visitors and staff interacting within six feet of residents. Implementation resulted in no resident cases and no evidence of staff-to-staff transmission in the facility. Overall, 14 staff and one resident have tested positive for COVID-19 in this facility, with no deaths
- In August 2020, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health made the recommendation for health care workers to wear face shields to prevent the spread of COVID-19
- Face shields have proven to be an effective mitigation strategy and the facility highly recommends this strategy to other nursing homes

### **Delaware (DE)**

#### *Delaware Health Care Facilities Association (DHCFA)*

- Gowns are in such short supply and are being made from old shirts and bedsheets
- Volunteers called “Help for Healthcare Delaware” made masks for all non-clinical staff, generating 20,000 masks for all facilities
- Organizations took out a credit line to bulk purchase personal protective equipment (PPE), which was distributed among the facilities  
<https://www.dhcfa.org>

### **Florida (FL)**

#### *Florida Health Care Association (FHCA)*

- Conducted a personal protective equipment (PPE) train-the-trainer webinar on April 8, 2020

### **Georgia (GA)**

#### *Sadie G. Mays Health and Rehabilitation Center*

- Instituted a “Buddy System” intervention empowering all levels of staff to monitor and correct for the appropriate use and wear of PPE. This has been well received by staff as a good intervention to assure their residents are receiving the best care
- Instituted the “Shift Champions” intervention to monitor and replenish PPE inventory. The facility is currently COVID-19 and attributes these interventions to that status

### **Hawaii (HI)**

#### *University of Hawaii, Hawaii State Rural Health Association*

- Provided a COVID-19 Project ECHO education and training series, with weekly sessions for all long term care and assisted living facilities. The series topics included: donning/doffing personal protective equipment (PPE), repurposing PPE, COVID-19 testing procedures, resident isolation and staff quarantine, and telemedicine in long term care  
<https://geriatrics.jabsom.hawaii.edu/ltss>

### **Indiana (IN)**

#### *Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH)*

- On October 19, 2020, ISDH posted updated infection control guidance for long term care requiring usage of N95 masks, single resident gowns, and eye protection (face shield or goggles) when providing direct care to residents who tested positive or under investigation for COVID-19  
[https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN\\_COVID-19%20LTC%20SOP%20checklist%2010.19.20.pdf](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19%20LTC%20SOP%20checklist%2010.19.20.pdf)
- To align with updated Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, ISDH is now recommending the use of eye protection as a standard safety measure to protect personnel providing essential direct care within six feet of the resident, especially when doing procedures that lead to sprays and splashes  
[https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN\\_COVID-19%20eye%20protection%209.2.20.pdf](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19%20eye%20protection%209.2.20.pdf)
  - New language added July 15, 2020, specifies that protective eyewear (e.g., safety glasses, trauma glasses) with gaps between glasses and the face likely do not protect eyes from all splashes and sprays

### Iowa (IA)

#### *Meyer Pharmacy*

- Meyer Pharmacy has a respiratory therapist on staff and is performing mask fit training for local nursing home staff  
<https://meyerpharmacy.com/pharmacy/covid-19>

### Kansas (KS)

#### *Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE)*

- KDHE's Healthcare-Associated Infections and Antimicrobial Resistance Program created a document that illustrates and describes several types of respiratory protection options, including their protection levels, purpose, intended use, and filtration. The document was adapted from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)  
<https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1346/Understanding-Respiratory-Protection-Options-PDF---7-10-20?bidId=>

#### *LeadingAge Kansas*

- LeadingAge Kansas added a respiratory protection resource page providing guidance on N95 and KN95 utilization including OSHA requirements, fit, testing and decontamination  
<https://lks.memberclicks.net/respiratory-protection-need-to-know>

### Kentucky (KY)

#### *Office of the Governor Andy Beshear*

- On August 6, 2020, Governor Andy Beshear extended the state's mandate requiring face coverings in some situations for another 30 days, citing its success and continued importance in flattening the curve of COVID-19 cases in the commonwealth  
<https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prId=296>

### Louisiana (LA)

#### *Heritage Manor South*

- Heritage Manor South has developed a way for staff to engage and motivate staff while promoting the correct usage of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and hand hygiene practices. Each day, a random staff member is selected to be the "Lucky Duck." The Lucky Duck must educate/demonstrate proper PPE and hand hygiene skills to surrounding staff members. If performed correctly, staff are given immediate praise and applause by supervisors and co-workers

#### *Patterson Health Care*

- Patterson Health Care in Patterson, Louisiana utilized a resident to help spread reminders to adopt best practices. Patterson has a nursing home resident who was a radio announcer, and he recorded 2-4 minute messages that were played overhead a few times each day to remind staff to choose best practices, such as how to choose the correct personal protective equipment (PPE), wash their hands, and reminders to remain socially distanced

### Maine (ME)

#### *Maine Health Care Association*

- Guidance was created by the Maine Health Care Association on optimizing personal protective

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 10. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Actions to Improve Utilization of PPE Continued

equipment (PPE) during a crisis

<https://www.mehca.org/files/QualityRegs/MHCA-Optimizing-PPE-During-Crisis-Levels.pdf>

#### **Maryland (MD)**

*University of Maryland Medical System (UMMS)*

- UMMS' *Conserve PPE!* Video covers personal protective equipment (PPE) conservation, proper ways to re-use specific types of masks, and how to correctly remove PPE  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I6JqZyu9du4>

#### **Michigan (MI)**

*University of Michigan*

- Personal cold plasma 'air curtain' design for COVID-19 protection moves forward. The next generation of protective masks—under development at the University of Michigan—could harness the power of nonthermal, or cold, plasma into a small headset that both blocks and neutralizes airborne pathogens  
<https://news.umich.edu/personal-cold-plasma-air-curtain-design-for-covid-19-protection-moves-forward>

#### **Minnesota (MN)**

*Minnesota Department of Health*

- Developed Best Practices for Masks: Considerations for People with Disabilities and Special Health Needs  
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/guidemasks.pdf>

#### **Missouri (MO)**

*Missouri University Sinclair School of Nursing – Quality Improvement Program for Missouri (QIPMO)*

- The St. Louis Post-Acute Care Long Term Care Roundtable created a visual guide resource for bag mask storage  
<https://nursinghomehelp.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/BAG-MASK-STORAGE.pdf>
- QIPMO developed a Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Protocol that provides guidance for the use of PPE in multiple situations in the nursing facility (i.e., visitors, direct or non-direct staff, active COVID-19 units, laundry, dietary, during testing, etc.)  
<https://nursinghomehelp.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/PPE-Protocol-102720.pdf>

*St. Louis County Department of Public Health*

- Established a High Risk Task Force Team composed of volunteer doctors and registered nurses. Team members serve as liaisons between long term care facilities and the Department of Public Health. Working remotely, team members answer questions, meet informational needs, and monitor each facility's supply of personal protective equipment (PPE). In some cases, the task force has worked with the St. Louis County Police Office of Emergency Management to provide PPE to facilities that lack adequate supplies  
<http://mura.stlouisco.com/news/dph-covid-19-update-4232020>

#### **Nebraska (NE)**

*Infection Control Assessment and Promotion (ICAP) Program, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services*

- Provided guidance on personal protective equipment (PPE) and zoning for long term care



## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 10. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Actions to Improve Utilization of PPE Continued

facilities related to COVID-19

<https://icap.nebraskamed.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/04/PPE-use-when-a-LTCF-has-a-COVID-19-infection-ICAP-guidance-4.16.2020.pdf>

#### **New Jersey (NJ)**

*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)*

- Shared resource guide with COVID-19 recommendations, including clarification that cloth face coverings are not considered personal protective equipment (PPE) because their capability to protect health care personnel (HCP) is unknown  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/long-term-care.html>

*Sanford Health*

- Provided instructions on how to sew a face mask, how to make a no-sew face mask, and how to wear a face mask. Volunteers were asked to sew masks for health care personnel  
<https://news.sanfordhealth.org/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/how-to-make-face-masks>

#### **New Mexico (NM)**

*New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH)*

- Updated mask guidance for children and youth which can be relevant for nursing home visitors.  
[https://cv.nmhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Mask-Guidance-for-Children-and-Youth\\_Final1.pdf](https://cv.nmhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Mask-Guidance-for-Children-and-Youth_Final1.pdf)
- Issued updated visitation guidelines for long term care facilities, including an updated facility visitation plan effective August 31, 2020  
<https://cv.nmhealth.org/long-term-care-visitation-guidelines/>

#### **North Carolina (NC)**

*North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS)*

- NCDHHS launched the “Whatever Your Reason” campaign to encourage every North Carolinian to wear a mask in the collective fight against COVID-19. An online resource page was created to amplify this message with links to multi-media content (social media, video PSAs, digital ads, flyers, radio ads) available in English and Spanish  
<https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/materials-resources/whatever-your-reason>

#### **North Dakota (ND)**

*Valley Senior Living on Columbia, Grand Forks*

- There were not enough supply carts for all rooms in the COVID-19 transfer unit and the monitoring hall. A 3-drawer cart was placed outside of each room near the door. The leadership team and staff developed a process for use. If in use, the drawers face the hallway and supplies are stocked. When not in use, the drawers are turned toward the wall. After each use, the cart is emptied and disinfected prior to turning to face the wall

#### **Ohio (OH)**

*Office of the Governor Mike DeWine*

- Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Lt. Governor Jon Husted were appreciative of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA’s) approval of the Battelle Critical Care Decontamination System (CCDS)<sup>™</sup>, which is being used to perform decontamination of the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 10. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Actions to Improve Utilization of PPE Continued

2) to address personal protective equipment (PPE) shortage (cleans up to 80,000 units/day) in Columbus, Ohio

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/resources/news-releases-news-you-can-use/Governor-DeWine-Lt-Governor-Husted-Thank-FDA-for-Approval-Use-Battelle-Technology>

#### State Medical Board of Ohio, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- Shared information on the process to safely put on (don) and take off (doff) personal protective equipment (PPE) recommended for health care personnel caring for patients with COVID-19  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/using-ppe.html>

#### Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

- Pre-Surge Planning Toolkit for Providers of Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS): Resource with strategies on assistance with planning for critical shortages of personal protective equipment (PPE)  
<https://dodd.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/dodd/providers/all-provider-resources/resource-ltss-pre-surge-planning-toolkit>

## Oklahoma (OK)

#### Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH)

- The OSDH COVID-19 website was created for additional notifications and resources, including information on county task forces to assist nursing homes with testing, delivery, and identification of personal protective equipment (PPE) needs
- OSDH released a Long Term Care Facility Staff Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Usage Grid to help nursing homes select correct PPE for staff and residents  
[https://coronavirus.health.ok.gov/sites/g/files/gmc786/f/ltc\\_facility\\_staff\\_ppe\\_usage\\_grid.pdf](https://coronavirus.health.ok.gov/sites/g/files/gmc786/f/ltc_facility_staff_ppe_usage_grid.pdf)

## Texas (TX)

#### Texas Health and Human Services Commission Regulatory Services

- The Texas Health and Human Services Commission Regulatory Services and the Strike Force are trained to teach staff at facilities the “donning and doffing” of personal protective equipment (PPE)
- The Texas Health and Human Services Commission is also offering webinars on best-practices of PPE use in infection control

## Utah (UT)

#### State of Utah

- Created an official YouTube account, Utah Coronavirus, for COVID-19 response and information. A new set of video resources are available, including the "Protect Yourself" video playlist that includes tips for self-isolation, proper mask wearing, hand hygiene and more  
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLa8O8licbk0umwGmBF323D-lv0m2TlBjC>

## Virginia (VA)

#### Virginia Department of Health (VDH)

- The Virginia Department of Health is hosting multiple sessions of an N95 Respiratory Fit Testing Train-the-Trainer Course. The purpose of the course is to ensure that each health district has two individuals qualified to provide respirator fit testing for their district. In addition, the attendee will be able to train others in the proper procedures for fit testing

*State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response*

*10. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Actions to Improve Utilization of PPE Continued*

[https://www.train.org/virginia/course/1046592/live\\_event](https://www.train.org/virginia/course/1046592/live_event)

*Virginia Health Care Association – Virginia Center for Assisted Living (VHCA-VCAL)*

- The Virginia Department of General Services developed an online listing of emergency vendors offering supplies, inclusive of PPE, and services during the COVID-19 pandemic

<https://dgs.virginia.gov/procurement/resources/covid-19-emergency-vendor-list/>

**West Virginia (WV)**

*West Virginia Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Public Health*

- COVID-19 website includes homeless service providers and home care resources, such as home care and self-isolation guidance for people with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 and guidance on cleaning when caring for ill person in the home

<https://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx>

## 11. HOUSING AND SHELTERING

### California (CA)

*The County of San Luis Obispo, in partnership with Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Dignity Health, and Tenet Healthcare*

- Opened its Alternate Care Site located at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo's Recreation Center. This site will help relieve local hospitals and nursing homes by housing patients with needs between home care and hospitalization  
<https://www.emergencyslo.org/en/alternate-care-site.aspx>

### Connecticut (CT)

*Athena Health Care Systems*

- Operates four designated COVID-19 recovery centers to accept COVID-19 patients who no longer require acute care but are still impacted by the infection – paid \$600 per patient per day  
<https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases/2020/04-2020/Governor-Lamont-Coronavirus-Update-April-11>

### Iowa (IA)

*Iowa Long Term Care Ombudsman*

- Provides individual nursing home support for advocacy of needs at resident level
- Supports residents and families with concerns
- Encourages nursing homes to reach out to the Quality Improvement Organization, the Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA), and the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) for support
- Website houses multiple resources  
<https://www.iowaaging.gov/educational-resources/covid-19-older-iowans>

### Maryland (MD)

*Chesapeake Regional Information System for our Patients (CRISP) Health Information Exchange Daily Bed Reporting*

- This new daily CRISP bed reporting survey provides key pieces of skilled nursing facility availability information
- The Post-Acute Capacity form has been relocated to the CRISP Unified Landing Page (ULP) at <https://ulp.crisphealth.org>
- Simply log in using your existing CRISP credentials, then click the "Post Acute Capacity" tab at the top of the screen to enter your facility's information as usual. For a refresher on submitting your facility's information through the Post-Acute Capacity form  
<https://crisphealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/COVID-19-Post-Acute-Capacity-Tracking-and-Reporting-Guide-1.pdf>
- If you do not have access to the CRISP Unified Landing Page, please contact the CRISP Customer Care Team and request access to "Post Acute Capacity." Call 1-877-952-7477 or email [support@crisphealth.org](mailto:support@crisphealth.org)

11. Housing and Sheltering Continued

**Michigan (MI)**

*Michigan Office of the Governor Gretchen Whitmer*

- COVID-19 Regional Hubs are dedicated to treating COVID-19-affected individuals from congregate care settings who do not require hospital-level care. The Hubs will be designated by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and announced as they are established
- Facilities across the state are being considered for this model based on willingness to serve as a hub facility, capacity to contribute to local need for services, proximity to acute care facilities experiencing high COVID-19-related demand, ability to effectively quarantine COVID-19-affected residents, and performance history of the facility
- COVID-19 Regional Hubs will be required to complete daily enhanced reporting to the department

[https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98163\\_98173-526911,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98163_98173-526911,00.html)

**Mississippi (MS)**

*Mississippi State Department of Health, Mississippi Emergency Management Agency*

- The COVID-19 System of Care helps arrange for COVID-19 convalescence for patients being discharged from a hospital before being readmitted to a nursing home
- For more information, contact David Hall, Bureau Chief for the Acute Care Systems – Mississippi State Department of Health at 601-933-2440

[https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/\\_static/44,22004,397,881.html](https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/44,22004,397,881.html)

**Nebraska (NE)**

*Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)*

- Temporary housing for health care workers, emergency medical services, and law enforcement personnel is provided to mitigate the potential of COVID-19 exposure to their loved ones when they return home after shifts worked. The goal of this program is to reduce spread and exposure to families of health care workers and first responders while they continue to work their assigned shifts

<http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Nebraska-Accommodation-Project.aspx>

*Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), University of Nebraska, Nebraska National Guard*

- Temporary lodging and accommodations are available to Nebraskans exposed to COVID-19 and in need of a quarantine/isolation location outside of their usual residence due to a high risk household member

<http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Pilot-Program-for-COVID-19-Housing-Accommodation-Expands.aspx>

**Nevada (NV)**

*Nursing Homes*

- Larger, urban nursing homes are creating COVID-19 units at COVID-19-naïve facilities

**New Jersey (NJ)**

*Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey*

- Received funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to house COVID-19-positive individuals and families who required isolation using hotels, motels and dormitories. The five-category criteria includes:
  - Homeless individuals and families who live in congregate shelters who are symptomatic or tested positive for COVID-19

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 11. Housing and Sheltering Continued

- Homeless individuals who require quarantine or isolation due to being symptomatic or having a positive test for COVID-19
- Children and adults living in congregate living settings who have tested positive for COVID-19
- First responders and health care workers who do not require hospitalization but nevertheless need to avoid direct contact with their families due to exposure to COVID-19
- Other groups that may need assistance as the state continues to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as COVID-19 positive patients who do not require hospitalization in a traditional setting, but nevertheless require quarantine and isolation outside their residence to prevent the further spread of the virus  
<https://www.hcdnnj.org/coronavirusresources#homeless>

#### *New Jersey Department of Health*

- Funding for 21 counties has been allocated to support home delivered meals and other food to boost senior nutrition for older New Jersey residents during the COVID-19 pandemic  
<https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/news/pressreleases/2020/approved/20200501.html>

#### *Office of the Governor Phil Murphy*

- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has approved New Jersey's request to use emergency, non-congregate sheltering for individuals impacted by COVID-19 that do not have the means or ability to isolate themselves  
<https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562020/20200411a.shtml>

### **New Mexico (NM)**

#### *Nursing Homes*

- Larger nursing home corporations have instituted COVID-19-specific facilities

### **New York (NY)**

#### *Coalition for the Homeless*

- The Coalition has developed COVID-19 guidance material for shelters. The guidance material, all of which are available for viewing, download, and use, includes:
  - Best practices for shelters
  - Isolation procedures and guidance
  - Face mask guidance
  - Isolation discharge criteria
  - COVID-19 overview and testing form
  - Shelter provider COVID-19 FAQs document  
<https://www.coalitionforthehomeless.org/covid-19>

#### *Women In Need NYC (WINNYC: Provider of shelter services in New York City)*

- New housing recovery and stability plan due to COVID-19 crisis called "The Aftermath Plan":
  - Established a new Stay-at-Home Emergency Rental Assistance Voucher to help low-income renters stay in their homes
  - Created New York City Rapid Rehousing to help families avoid shelter by providing temporary accommodations (30 to 60 days) in apartment-style student housing and hotels and an enhanced rental assistance voucher to help families quickly find a new

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 11. Housing and Sheltering Continued

home

- Converted vacant hotels to family shelters and provide social services
- Made common-sense adjustments to the City Family Homelessness Eviction Prevention
- Supplemented (FHEPS) rental voucher so the program widened the door out of shelter
- Redoubled efforts to create and preserve deeply affordable housing

[https://winnyc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/final-5.8\\_The-Aftermath-of-COVID-19-Preparing-for-and-Responding-to-Housing-Instabilityv2.pdf](https://winnyc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/final-5.8_The-Aftermath-of-COVID-19-Preparing-for-and-Responding-to-Housing-Instabilityv2.pdf)

#### Ohio ( OH)

##### Ohio Department of Health

- The Health Department created a checklist that can be used by shelters and congregate sites to minimize exposure to COVID-19. Shelters and other congregate housing sites can use this checklist to ensure they are following COVID-19 precautions. The directions are clear and succinct  
<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/checklists/english-checklists/special-populations-shared-living-facilities-covid-19-checklist>
- Released a resource that speaks to emergency preparedness in long term care facilities and the resident transport component of the preparedness plan as it links to infectious disease (transfer agreements and outside sources of transportation)  
<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/healthcare-providers-and-local-health-districts/for-healthcare-providers/Emergency-Preparedness-in-Long-Term-Care-Facilities>
- Created a resource that discusses Ohio workplaces COVID-19 requirements for cloth masks or face coverings and addresses FAQs pertaining to the topic (i.e., proper way to wear, available face coverings, why to wear face coverings, and types of face coverings)  
<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/resources/general-resources/cloth-masks-or-face-coverings-in-the-workplace>

#### Pennsylvania (PA)

##### Pennsylvania Health Care Association

- Provided hotel rooms for staff needing distancing  
<https://www.phca.org/covid19>

#### Texas (TX)

##### Texas Department of State Health Services

- Contracts to staff and outfit alternate care sites are in place throughout the state, as well as to coordinate planning efforts with multiple jurisdictions that may have their own surge capacity plans. For instance, the City of Austin used models from the University of Texas to prepare to set up hospital-level care sites with select buildings  
<https://www.austintexas.gov/news/surge-plan-developed-treat-covid-19-patients-if-hospitals-are-overwhelmed>

#### West Virginia (WV)

##### West Virginia Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Public Health

- COVID-19 website includes homeless service providers and home care resources, such as home care and self-isolation guidance for people with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 and guidance on cleaning when caring for ill person in the home  
<https://dhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx>

## 12. TRANSPORTATION NEEDS

### California (CA)

*The State of California*

- California partnered with United Airlines in April 2020 to provide free, round-trip flights for volunteer medical professionals from across California and the country who join the state's health care workforce

### Georgia (GA)

*Georgia Health Care Association (GHCA)*

- Developed a modified infection control transfer form to help members communicate when admitting hospital transfers. This form can be used bi-directionally by hospitals and skilled nursing facilities

<https://www.ghca.info//Files/Final%20Infection%20Control%20Transfer%20Form%20-%20Fillable.pdf>

### Iowa (IA)

*Iowa Long Term Care Ombudsman*

- Provides individual nursing home support for advocacy of needs at resident level
- Supports residents and families with concerns
- Encourages nursing homes to reach out to the Quality Improvement Organization, the Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA), and the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) for support

- Website houses multiple resources

<https://www.iowaaging.gov/educational-resources/covid-19-older-iowans>

### New Mexico (NM)

*State of New Mexico*

- Developed transportation capacity with state emergency management function to transport individuals requiring medical sheltering and placement at an alternative care site

### New York (NY)

*New York State Department of Health*

- Interim Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfection of Public Transportation Settings for COVID-19 resource covers cleaning and disinfection guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in public transportation, including information on routine cleaning; high risk locations; cleaning and disinfection; and staff guidance (hand hygiene, personal protective equipment, and respiratory hygiene)

[https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/03/cleaning\\_guidance\\_public\\_transportation.pdf](https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/03/cleaning_guidance_public_transportation.pdf)

### West Virginia (WV)

*West Virginia Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Public Health*

- COVID-19 website includes information on medical transport guidelines

<https://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx>



### 13. PATIENT TRANSFER

#### Arizona (AZ)

##### Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS)

- Newly developed, centralized 24/7 call line facilitates interfacility transfer of patients to and from hospitals and nursing homes. This free service is an algorithm based on protocols created by Arizona transfer centers, ADHS, and chief medical officers. In addition, the state has identified two large alternative sites in the event of large hospital surges. This includes St. Luke's Medical Center, which recently closed, and a mall department store
- This system will manage throughput and deter bottlenecks in the emergency department (ED) with four key components:
  - Expediting patient transfer to a higher level of care
  - Expediting patient transfer to a lower level of care
  - Providing a safety net for interfacility transport
  - Providing critical care and palliative care consultation
  - 1.877.SURGE.AZ (1.877.787.4329)  
<https://www.azdhs.gov/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/infectious-disease-epidemiology/index.php - novel-coronavirus-surge-line>
- An algorithm for nursing homes and hospitals on accepting admissions and readmissions from higher acuity facilities clarifies when patients need to be in isolation or quarantine due to COVID-19  
<https://azdhs.gov/documents/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/infectious-diseases-services/coronavirus/guidance-accepting-admissions-readmissions-higher-acuity-facilities.pdf>
- By Executive Order, Arizona nursing homes are required to report daily bed availability and status of COVID-19 patients. To facilitate this, a web-based application, the Post Acute Care Capacity Tracker (PACCT), was developed. Having a centralized reporting mechanism will ensure appropriate level of care and reduce redundant phone calls from various hospitals to nursing homes  
<https://www.azdhs.gov/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/infectious-disease-epidemiology/index.php#novel-coronavirus-surge-line>
- A statewide centralized call station, Arizona (AZ) Surge Line, was created through the Office of the Governor Doug Ducey to facilitate COVID-19 transfers. To match ongoing patient transfer needs with available Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and post-acute beds, a web-based application was developed to capture data such as centralized bed availability, vents, staffing, personal protective equipment (PPE), etc., from hospitals and nursing homes. This tracker provides data to AZ Surge Line which arranges COVID-19 transfers from hospitals to nursing homes and from remote rural areas, such as the Navajo County which has COVID-19 hot-spots, to ICUs in hospitals  
<https://www.azdhs.gov/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/infectious-disease-epidemiology/index.php#novel-coronavirus-surge-line>
- On July 9, 2020, Governor Doug Ducey signed Executive Order (EO) 2020-48 mandating that skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, long term acute care hospitals, medical group homes, hospice, behavioral health inpatient facilities, intermediate care facilities, medical group homes, and home health agencies report into the ADHS Post-Acute Care Capacity Tracker (PACCT). Every 24 hours, providers must report the number of COVID-19 residents requiring isolation, ability to accept new COVID-19 admissions, current COVID-19 admission criteria,

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 13. Patient Transfer Continued

number of beds available, and number of beds available to new admissions with active or previous COVID-19. These daily data allow hospital care coordinators to access statewide bed availability across the post-acute care continuum and quickly send patients to locations that can best serve them. The executive order also added Arizona SurgeLine post-acute provider protocols for the transfer and acceptance of patients when it is clinically appropriate and resources allow it

<https://azgovernor.gov/executive-orders>

#### *Innovation Care Partners / HonorHealth*

- Innovation Care Partners (ICP), a clinically integrated care delivery system within the HonorHealth health system, developed an innovative post-acute care collaborative strategy to proactively identify skilled nursing facility COVID-19 outbreaks and mitigate severity
- ICP provides daily, real-time reports that identify potential outbreaks and direct immediate assistance, including assessment of testing, staff protection, personal protective equipment (PPE), and physician communication
- ICP actively surveys partners about PPE which has resulted in the delivery of 1,200 isolation gowns, 18,000 surgical masks, and 1,000 N95 masks
- HonorHealth connects partners through virtual webinars that review national and local data, guidelines, advanced care planning, and PPE
- ICP updates partners via text messages and developed a website that includes a post-acute care COVID-19 toolkit. These strategies help ICP and HonorHealth strengthen partnerships, hear emerging concerns, disseminate timely information, educate post-acute care providers, and improve quality outcomes

#### **California (CA)**

##### *The County of Los Angeles*

- The Department of Public Health provides guidance to skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) on clinical care related to COVID-19 under the direction of the dedicated Hospital Acquired Infection-Antimicrobial Resistance Committee (HAI-ARC) to include directives on interfacility transfer, discharge rules, preventing and managing COVID-19 in long term care facilities and return to facility rules

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media>

##### *San Mateo County Health, Health Plan of San Mateo*

- San Mateo County Health designated three skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) as Centers of Excellence to proactively coordinate care for COVID-19 residents. These facilities were identified for their high standards of patient care and expertise with infection control. These Centers of Excellence will treat COVID-19-positive patients discharged from local hospitals, as well as patients from community settings who have COVID-19 and require a higher level of care

[https://www.smchealth.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/san\\_mateo\\_county\\_health\\_press\\_release\\_centers\\_for\\_excellence\\_skilled\\_nursing\\_facilities\\_april\\_21st\\_2020\\_1.pdf](https://www.smchealth.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/san_mateo_county_health_press_release_centers_for_excellence_skilled_nursing_facilities_april_21st_2020_1.pdf)

13. Patient Transfer Continued

*County of San Luis Obispo, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Dignity Health, Tenet Healthcare*

- The County of San Luis Obispo, in partnership with Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Dignity Health, and Tenet Healthcare opened its Alternate Care Site located at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo's Recreation Center. This site will help relieve local hospitals and nursing homes by housing patients with needs between home care and hospitalization  
<https://www.emergencyslo.org/en/alternate-care-site.aspx>

**Connecticut (CT)**

*Athena Health Care Systems*

- Operates four designated COVID-19 recovery centers to accept COVID-19 patients who no longer require acute care but are still impacted by the infection – paid \$600 per patient per day  
<https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases/2020/04-2020/Governor-Lamont-Coronavirus-Update-April-11>

**Delaware (DE)**

*Delaware Health Care Facilities Association (DHCFA)*

- A discharge planning task force works with accountable care organizations (ACOs) for each county and eBright Health, the state ACO, and all hospitals. It coordinates transfers from hospital to nursing home or assisted living, or vice versa. This takes a lot of communication and has worked extremely well. They want to keep this in place after the crisis.  
<https://www.dhcfa.org>

**District of Columbia (DC)**

*District of Columbia Hospital Association*

- The COVID-19 Patient Transfer Communication Tool for Hospitals and Skilled Nursing Facilities allows sending and receiving facilities to document a patient's medical status related to COVID-19. It is an algorithm which supports assessment of all hospitalized patients for COVID-19 before transfer to a post-acute facility  
[https://higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/DCHA/751f0cb7-ab59-4ad3-8e48-c9a6ec516cea/UploadedImages/Documents/COVID-19 Patient Transfer Questionnaire DCHA DCHCA.pdf](https://higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/DCHA/751f0cb7-ab59-4ad3-8e48-c9a6ec516cea/UploadedImages/Documents/COVID-19%20Patient%20Transfer%20Questionnaire%20DCHA%20DCHCA.pdf)

**Florida (FL)**

*Florida Agency for Health Care Administration*

- Early in the epidemic, worked with Florida Health Care Association and Florida Hospital Association to provide guidance related to transfers between nursing homes and hospitals  
[http://ahca.myflorida.com/COVID-19\\_Facilities.shtml-facility](http://ahca.myflorida.com/COVID-19_Facilities.shtml-facility)
- Implemented emergency rule mandating hospital testing prior to discharge to long-term care facility
- Directed nursing homes to transfer residents if the nursing home is unable to appropriately isolate and following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance  
[http://ahca.myflorida.com/COVID-19\\_Facilities.shtml#facility](http://ahca.myflorida.com/COVID-19_Facilities.shtml#facility)
- Facilitated regional collaboratives of hospitals and nursing homes to provide critical infection control education and support

## Georgia (GA)

### Georgia Health Care Association (GHCA)

- Developed a modified infection control transfer form to help members communicate when admitting hospital transfers. This form can be used bi-directionally by hospitals and skilled nursing facilities  
<https://www.ghca.info//Files/Final%20Infection%20Control%20Transfer%20Form%20-%20Fillable.pdf>

## Illinois (IL)

### Illinois Critical Access Hospital Network (ICAHN)

- Provides swing beds for COVID-19-positive patients upon discharge from the hospital  
<https://www.c-span.org/video/?471210-3/washington-journal-pat-schou-discusses-rural-health-care-coronavirus-pandemic>

### Illinois Health and Hospital Association (IHA)

- IHA collaborated with three nursing homes trade associations and the Illinois Department of Public Health on the development of transfer guidance from hospital settings to skilled and intermediate long-term care settings  
[https://www.team-ihh.org/files/non-gated/quality/guidance\\_regarding\\_hospital\\_4-7-20.aspx](https://www.team-ihh.org/files/non-gated/quality/guidance_regarding_hospital_4-7-20.aspx)

### Rush University Medical Center, Chicago

- To better understand and respond to the needs of COVID-19 patients, Rush University is using robocalls to automate a portion of its post-discharge process. Rush explains the purpose of the calls prior to discharge to coach patients to answer them. So far, the robocalls have reduced readmissions by 6.2 percent. Four in five patients answer the calls and 57 percent of those are engaging with the automated questions. To get patients to respond, Rush explains the purpose of the calls prior to discharge and instructs patients to answer them. The program has helped Rush better understand and respond to the needs of COVID-19 patients  
<https://www.healthleadersmedia.com/innovation/how-rush-uses-robocalls-reduce-readmissions>

## Indiana (IN)

### Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH)

- An ISDH waiver issued guidance for creating COVID-19 long term care facilities:
  - Waiving facility staffing requirements
  - Enhancing reimbursement rates for COVID-19 facilities by 50 percent
  - Providing liability protection
  - Giving data support to help hospitals identify post-acute COVID-19 facilities for transfer
  - Providing infection control teams to train facilities on COVID-19 testing
  - Provisioning all necessary personal protective equipment (PPE) equipment as a “priority” facility, similar to hospitals[https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN\\_COVID-19\\_State\\_Requirements\\_and\\_Guidance\\_for\\_COVID\\_dedicated\\_faciliti....pdf](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19_State_Requirements_and_Guidance_for_COVID_dedicated_faciliti....pdf)
- ISDH negotiated a transfer agreement between the hospital and long term care facility associations, which uses five categories of resident/patient transfers to facilitate the safest movement of persons between facilities

### 13. Patient Transfer Continued

[https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN\\_COVID-19\\_LTCtransfer%205.7.20.pdf%20](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19_LTCtransfer%205.7.20.pdf%20)

- Working with local organizations, ISDH created documents and best-practice sheets to help facilities and hospital to better communicate around facility transfers
  - Hospital to Post-Acute Care Transfer COVID-19 Assessment  
[https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN\\_COVID-19\\_Hospital%20to%20Post-Acute%20Care%20Transfer%205.11.20.pdf](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19_Hospital%20to%20Post-Acute%20Care%20Transfer%205.11.20.pdf)
  - Best Practices When Transferring to the Hospital  
<https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/Tips for transferring to Hosp Final.pdf>
  - COVID-19: Hospital Hand-off to Nursing Home  
<https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/Hosp%20Hand%20Off%20to%20NH%20Final.pdf>
  - COVID-19 Nursing Home Accepting Transfer from Hospital  
<https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/NH accepting transfer from Hosp Final.pdf>

#### *Indiana Department of Homeland Security*

- Emergency Medical Services, through the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, coordinated with the 911 system and nursing homes to use 911 as the method of communication for a positive COVID-19 resident prior to transfer to the hospital so that emergency medical services (EMS) crews are prepared and 911 dispatch is aware that the unit will be out of service for two hours after transfer to decontaminate

#### **Iowa (IA)**

##### *Unity Point Healthcare (UPH) Accountable Care Organization Response*

- Unity Point Healthcare launched an initiative to ensure safe transfers of patients transitioning to a skilled nursing facility (SNF)
- UPH will test any patient for COVID-19 prior to transition to a SNF. UPH is identifying space within each of its hospitals where patients who remain positive for COVID-19 but no longer require acute care can remain until they are safe to transition to a SNF  
<https://www.unitypoint.org/coronavirus.aspx>

#### **Kansas (KS)**

##### *LeadingAge Kansas*

- LeadingAge Kansas, the Kansas Health Care Association–Kansas Center for Assisted Living (KHCA-KCAL), and Kansas Adult Care Executives (KACE) partnered to create the Nursing Home Admissions Resource During COVID-19 Pandemic Guide, which provides clear and condensed guidance on nursing home admissions or readmissions from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)  
<https://lks.memberclicks.net/assets/docs/COVID19/Nursing%20Home%20Admissions%20Resource%20FINAL%205-5-2020.pdf>

#### **Kentucky (KY)**

##### *Kentucky Association of Health Care Facilities (KAHCF)*

- KAHCF, in collaboration with long term care administrators, developed guidance on hospital transfer from hospitals to long term care facilities

##### *Kentucky Hospital Association*

- The Kentucky Hospital Association (KHA) developed a COVID-19 toolkit that is available on its website and includes guidance documents on closure and reopening of elective procedures,

13. Patient Transfer Continued

visitation, health care employee return to work, and discharge of hospital patients to long term care

<https://www.kyha.com/admin-resources>

**Maine (ME)**

*MaineHealth, Northern Light Healthcare*

- Two large health systems collaborated with hospital, nursing home, and home health associations to create a protocol/recommendations for skilled nursing facility (SNF) transfers  
<https://files.constantcontact.com/61812921601/bbba135e-b54a-4d96-8385-d3218b31397f.pdf>

**Massachusetts (MA)**

*Buoy Health*

- Developed an artificial intelligence assistant app that has an online coronavirus symptom checker, which uses an algorithm to determine the need for residents to be transferred from the nursing home to the hospital  
<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/buoy-health-calms-coronavirus-fear-serves-up-population-health-data-to-help-control-the-rising-epidemic-in-the-united-states-301024768.html>

**Michigan (MI)**

*University of Michigan*

- Increasingly, many individuals transition from hospitals to nursing homes to complete their recovery from serious health events as post-acute care patients. The Preventing Resistance and Infection by Integrating Systems in Michigan (MI PRIISM) project aims to develop a robust, integrated infection prevention program leveraging the increasingly close relationship between hospitals and their preferred referral nursing homes  
<https://priism.med.umich.edu/home>

**Nebraska (NE)**

*Nebraska Health Care Foundation, Nebraska Medical Center Partners in Preparedness Mentor Project*

- Awarded grant to foster mentorship with hospitals and nursing homes to enhance navigation through rapidly changing recommendations, connection with resources, provision of best practices, and encouragement  
<http://www.providermagazine.com/news/Pages/2020/JUNE%202020/New-Partnership-Helps-Nebraska-Pandemic-Response.aspx>

**New Jersey (NJ)**

*New Jersey Department of Health*

- Resident Transfer Protocol aligns with the New Jersey health commissioner plan to work with long term care centers to identify which facilities can separate infected residents or those with symptoms from the resident population. Facilities without wing/floor cohort ability are prioritized for transfer  
<https://www.nj.com/coronavirus/2020/04/nj-looks-to-transfer-residents-from-hardest-hit-nursing-homes-as-48-more-die-from-coronavirus.html>

*New Jersey Long Term Care Ombudsman (LTCO)*

- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) drafted a memorandum to State Survey

### 13. Patient Transfer Continued

Agency Directors. The CMS memorandum directed notification requirements for facilities when transferring residents to an acute care facility on an emergent basis. The resource speaks to the LTCO responding to requests for clarification about what information facilities should send to LTCO when a resident is subject to a transfer to an acute care facility on an emergency basis, the background of this issue, and direction on what information the LTCO will accept  
<https://ichoosehome.nj.gov/ooie/emergency.shtml>

#### **New Mexico (NM)**

*New Mexico Department of Health, Home Care Association and Medical Advisory Team*

- Collaborated with New Mexico Home Care Association and Medical Advisory Team on the development of transfer guidance from hospital settings to skilled and intermediate long-term care settings

#### **New York (NY)**

*New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH)*

- Outlined the public health emergency response, guidance, and recommended practices to assist nursing homes in the processing and removal of decedents during the COVID-19 outbreak  
[https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/04/doh\\_nhresidentdeaths\\_041920.pdf](https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/04/doh_nhresidentdeaths_041920.pdf)
- Created an Advisory: Hospital Discharges and Admissions to Nursing Homes/ Expedited Receipt of Residents Returning from Hospitals to Nursing Homes
- Residents are deemed appropriate for return to a nursing home upon a determination by the hospital physician or designee that the resident is medically stable for return
- Hospital discharge planners must confirm to the nursing home, by telephone, that the resident is medically stable for discharge. Comprehensive discharge instructions must be provided by the hospital prior to the transport of a resident to the nursing home.
- No resident shall be denied re-admission or admission to the nursing home solely based on a confirmed or suspected diagnosis of COVID-19. Nursing homes are prohibited from requiring a hospitalized resident who is determined medically stable to be tested for COVID-19 prior to admission or readmission  
<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/imm/contingency-surge-methods-alternate-care-sites.pdf>
- Reviewed the New York State Governor's policy and specific guidance related to COVID-19 returns to nursing homes. New protocols on testing inside nursing homes are also included  
<https://www.ny1.com/nyc/all-boroughs/news/2020/05/10/state-reverses-controversial-coronavirus-nursing-home-policy->

*Office of the Governor Andrew Cuomo*

- This resource speaks to Governor Cuomo's Executive Order for the suspension and modification of various laws and regulations authorized under applicable to nursing homes, which are no longer suspended and fully effective as of May 8, 2020 (facilitate transfers, rapid discharge, and transfer between hospitals and nursing homes)  
<https://www.leadingageny.org/topics/coronavirus/leadingage-ny-resources/certain-nursing-home-requirements-waived-under-executive-orders-back-in-effect>

#### **Nevada (NV)**

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### 13. Patient Transfer Continued

#### *Nevada Health Care Association, Hospital Association, and Rural Hospital Partners*

- A COVID-19-specific transfer form has been developed and is being implemented across these memberships, representing a very large portion of the Nevada health care community

#### **North Carolina (NC)**

##### *North Carolina Health Care Foundation (NCHA)*

- The NCHA created a workforce document, “Strategies to Support Nursing Surge Capacity During Biological Events,” in collaboration with the North Carolina Healthcare Foundation, North Carolina Organization of Nurse Leaders, and the North Carolina Directors of Nursing Administration in Long Term Care (NCDONA/LTC)
- The document is based off of a New Jersey Hospital Association toolkit for long term care facilities  
[https://www.ncha.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Nursing\\_Surge\\_Capacity\\_Resource\\_2020.pdf](https://www.ncha.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Nursing_Surge_Capacity_Resource_2020.pdf)

##### *North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS)*

- NCDHHS developed a flow diagram outlining the steps for hospitalized patients being discharged to a long term care facility following a test for or diagnosis of COVID-19  
<https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/guidance/healthcare/General-Flow-Chart-Hospital-to-Skilled-Nursing-Facility.pdf>

#### **Ohio (OH)**

##### *End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Network*

- To ensure care quality and patient safety, the ESRD Network established education to assist in care transitions

##### *LeadingAge Ohio*

- This resource includes Q&A discussion and guidance to health care providers related to protocols in place for patients returning from hospitalization; screening new admissions; and accommodating individuals and families requesting a tour of the facility in anticipation of admission  
[https://www.leadingageohio.org/aws/LAO/asset\\_manager/get\\_file/434627?ver=49](https://www.leadingageohio.org/aws/LAO/asset_manager/get_file/434627?ver=49)

##### *Ohio Department of Health*

- The Health Department created a checklist that can be used by shelters and congregate sites to minimize exposure to COVID-19. Shelters and other congregate housing sites can use this checklist to ensure they are following COVID-19 precautions. The directions are clear and succinct  
<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/checklists/english-checklists/special-populations-shared-living-facilities-covid-19-checklist>
- Released a resource that speaks to emergency preparedness in long term care facilities and the resident transport component of the preparedness plan as it links to infectious disease (transfer agreements and outside sources of transportation)  
<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/healthcare-providers-and-local-health-districts/for-healthcare-providers/Emergency-Preparedness-in-Long-Term-Care-Facilities>
- Created a resource that discusses Ohio workplaces COVID-19 requirements for cloth masks or face coverings and addresses FAQs pertaining to the topic (i.e., proper way to wear, available



## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 13. Patient Transfer Continued

face coverings, why to wear face coverings, and types of face coverings)

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/resources/general-resources/cloth-masks-or-face-coverings-in-the-workplace>

#### *Ohio Funeral Directors Association*

- The Ohio Funeral Directors Association prepared recommendations to facilitate the transfer of deceased patients from nursing homes, long term care, and hospitals into the care of the funeral director

[https://www.ema.ohio.gov/Documents/covid19/Hospice\\_Guidance.pdf](https://www.ema.ohio.gov/Documents/covid19/Hospice_Guidance.pdf)

#### *OMDA - The Ohio Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine*

- The Skilled Nursing Facility to Hospital and Hospital to Skilled Nursing Facility COVID- 19 Transfer Communication Tool documents an individual's medical status related to COVID-2019 to help facilitate communication between skilled nursing facilities and hospitals during patient transfers and admissions

<http://ohioamda.org/aws/OMDA/pt/sp/resources>

#### **Pennsylvania (PA)**

##### *Pennsylvania Health Care Association (PHCA)*

- Nursing home association representing most nursing homes in Pennsylvania allows nursing homes to transfer residents if unable to care for them

<https://www.phca.org/covid19>

#### **Texas (TX)**

##### *Texas Health and Human Services Commission Regulatory Services*

- A patient/resident transfer assessment guidance and process flow assists with transfers of patients from hospitals to long term care facilities

#### **Virginia (VA)**

##### *Virginia Health Care Association (VHCA)*

- Created and distributed two documents to provide guidance for patient transfers during the pandemic. The first document, "Guidance on Hospital Transfer and Admission of Patients to Long Term Care Facilities (LTCFs) During COVID-19 Emergency," is a protocol for hospitals that discharge patients to LTCF as admissions or readmissions

[https://www.vhca.org/files/2020/04/VHCA-LA-VHHA-COVID-19-LTCF-Hospital-Guidance\\_Final\\_04-22-20.pdf](https://www.vhca.org/files/2020/04/VHCA-LA-VHHA-COVID-19-LTCF-Hospital-Guidance_Final_04-22-20.pdf)

- The second document is an algorithm for assessing if a patient can be transferred safely and appropriately to a LTCF

[https://www.vhca.org/files/2020/04/COVID-Hospital-to-Post-Acute-Transfer-Form\\_04-22-20final.pdf](https://www.vhca.org/files/2020/04/COVID-Hospital-to-Post-Acute-Transfer-Form_04-22-20final.pdf)

#### **Washington (WA)**

##### *State of Washington*

- The state of Washington has responded well to the pandemic, with many organizations working to support the implementation and spread of nursing home- related state action
- Larger facilities and corporations are establishing COVID-19-specific facilities to receive discharges from hospitals, with increased hazard pay for employees and dedicated resources

*State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response*

*13. Patient Transfer Continued*

- The state of Washington, with support of the hospital and nursing home associations, developed a standardized statewide process for coordinating discharges from hospitals to nursing homes so as not to overwhelm any one facility

**West Virginia (WV)**

*West Virginia Health Care Association and West Virginia Department of Health and Human Services (WVDHHS)*

- In conjunction with WVDHHS Bureau for Public Health Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology, developed guidelines for COVID-19 outbreaks in long term care facilities, which covers management of residents returning from hospitalization or new admissions; criteria to remove residents from isolation; and nursing facility transfers  
<https://dhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx>

## 14. RESOURCES

### Alabama (AL)

#### *Alabama Nursing Home Association (ANHA)*

- Released the ANHA Disaster Preparedness Toolkit  
<https://anha.org/anha-launches-new-disaster-preparedness-toolkit>

#### *Alabama Nursing Home Association (ANHA), Alabama Department of Health (ADPH), Alliant Health Solutions*

- Host COVID-19 office hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays through August 27, 2020 for facilities to discuss and share COVID-19 best practices. These partners are also planning a monthly Health care acquired-infection (HAI) Huddle webinar on the last Friday of each month to provide guidance on some of the common themes brought forth during the office hour calls. Information related to these calls will be included in the ANHA newsletter

#### *Alliant Quality QIN-QIO, Dr. Rodney Tucker, Director for the Center for Palliative and Supportive Care at the University of Alabama Birmingham*

- Dr. Rodney Tucker, Director for the Center for Palliative and Supportive Care at the University of Alabama Birmingham, recorded a bite-sized learning with Alliant Quality regarding the tool “Meet My Loved One.” The Tool is designed for family members to share small details about their loved one to help bedside care teams deliver person-centered, compassionate care during COVID-19 treatment  
<https://youtu.be/UKczhKqFhDs>  
[https://www.alliantquality.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/AQ\\_PatientCenteredCareDuringPandemic\\_MeetMyLovedOne\\_12SO-W-AHSQIN-QIO-TO1CC-20-252\\_508-2.pdf](https://www.alliantquality.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/AQ_PatientCenteredCareDuringPandemic_MeetMyLovedOne_12SO-W-AHSQIN-QIO-TO1CC-20-252_508-2.pdf)

#### *Office of the Governor Kay Ivey*

- On August 7, 2020, Governor Kay Ivey announced a \$50 million grant program to support nursing homes responding to or mitigating the COVID-19 public health emergency. The State of Alabama Department of Finance signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Alabama Nursing Home Association (ANHA) Education Foundation to administer the grant program. The ANHA Education Foundation will provide more details at a later date  
<https://governor.alabama.gov/newsroom/2020/08/governor-ivey-announces-100-million-of-cares-act-funding-to-nursing-homes-and-hospitals/>
- An Alabama state based COVID-19 taskforce is maintaining a website which provides a wide variety of helpful COVID-19 information, including testing sites, news, and resources. The website is intended to also connect businesses, nonprofits, and people that need help with the right program partners and to connect program partners with people and resources to help those most in need  
<https://covid19.alabama.gov>

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 14. Resources Continued

*Office of the Lieutenant Governor Will Ainsworth, Business Council of Alabama, Chamber of Commerce Association of Alabama, AlabamaWorks!, Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama, Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce, Southeast AlabamaWorks!, West AlabamaWorks!*

- Alabama has created an online personal protective equipment (PPE), employment, and material resource guide for providers to find available supplies, disinfectants, PPE, employer/employee guidance, and more external pertinent links  
<https://tuscaloosachamber.com/business-toolkit>

### Alaska (AK)

*Alzheimer's Resource of Alaska*

- This organization provides care coordination services and education and connects residents to meaningful activities and community  
<https://www.alzalaska.org/programs-services>

### Arizona (AZ)

*Arizona Health Care Association (AHCA)*

- Held a free, statewide webinar covering COVID-19 and seasonal influenza. Topics covered by the state's epidemiologist included similarities and differences between flu and COVID-19, the importance of vaccinations for staff and residents, ways nursing homes can decrease health care system burden, and vaccine misconceptions  
[https://zoom.us/rec/play/MkPK1fooLTW2oGvYYQSiZt2r-w8sCGduBF9BWHslkmgj076rAn\\_XmGoMhZbk2Z3OJ\\_erLjMsvkriCt3x.SM9AhNmeki0JzYe9?start\\_time=1600885828000&xzm\\_rtaid=9ezLG-kPSkK5GWQyBdqz1A.1601992831580.d853d2aca04002d39fdcf0e6a6375fb&xzm\\_rhtaid=890](https://zoom.us/rec/play/MkPK1fooLTW2oGvYYQSiZt2r-w8sCGduBF9BWHslkmgj076rAn_XmGoMhZbk2Z3OJ_erLjMsvkriCt3x.SM9AhNmeki0JzYe9?start_time=1600885828000&xzm_rtaid=9ezLG-kPSkK5GWQyBdqz1A.1601992831580.d853d2aca04002d39fdcf0e6a6375fb&xzm_rhtaid=890)
- AHCA has expanded infection control support across Arizona through a new program called Disaster Ready (DR) EPIC (Emergency Preparedness Infection Control). The program is funded by a grant through the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) Hospital Preparedness Program. DR EPIC is an extension of the AHCA's ongoing Disaster Ready program, which has been in place since 2012. The program team includes expertise in nursing, infection prevention, and industrial hygiene. All Arizona skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) are eligible for technical assistance. SNFs with questions can email the DR EPIC Online Help Center at [EPIC@azhca.org](mailto:EPIC@azhca.org). They can also call the Helpline at 602-241-4644  
<https://vimeo.com/448284857/1194ddb244>
- AHCA developed a program to implement emergency preparedness and incident command training for nursing homes, funded by a grant from the Arizona Department of Health Services
- AHCA created a COVID-19 web page with information relevant to nursing homes, which includes information on national, state, and local guidelines

### California (CA)

*California Department of Public Health*

- *On October 5, 2020, the California Department of Public Health distributed All Facilities Letter (AFL) 20-78 to remind all skilled nursing facilities of their obligation to ensure that residents can exercise their right to vote safely in the November 3, 2020, election during the COVID-19 pandemic*  
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/AFL-20-78.aspx>

## *State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response*

### *14. Resources Continued*

#### *California Health Care Foundation*

- Provides COVID-19 resources to support nursing home providers, patients, and families to have conversations about serious illness and end of life care
- Online resources cover topics such as support for health care providers, patients, and families; the importance of advance care planning and palliative care in the context of COVID-19; and support for health systems regarding critical care resources  
<https://www.chcf.org/publication/covid-19-resources-serious-illness-end-of-life-care>

#### *California Partnership to Improve Dementia Care*

- Produced six COVID-19 recorded webinars, including:
  - Optimizing Dementia Care in the Era of COVID-19
  - Activities for Persons with Dementia During COVID-19
  - Tips for Reducing Wandering During COVID-19
  - Reducing Emotional Distress in Patients with Dementia During COVID-19
  - Supporting Family Members of Residents in Long Term Care
  - Coping During a Pandemic: Support for Long Term Care Staff
  - [https://www.caltcm.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=577:covid-19-training-video-series--brought-to-you-by-the-california-partnership-to-improve-dementia-care&catid=22:news&Itemid=111](https://www.caltcm.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=577:covid-19-training-video-series--brought-to-you-by-the-california-partnership-to-improve-dementia-care&catid=22:news&Itemid=111)

#### *Coalition for Compassionate Care of California*

- Offers a COVID-10 Conversations Toolbox for patients, families, and providers in nursing homes as they navigate end of life decision-making during these challenging times
- The toolbox includes decision aids, COVID-19-specific scripts, conversation tips, and other tools to help facilitate conversations about care  
<https://coalitionccc.org/covid-conversations-toolbox>

#### *County of Santa Clara Emergency Operations Center*

- Organized local resources to meet projected needs for skilled nursing facilities
- Distributed a survey for residents to document skills and matched them with specific nursing home needs, such as janitorial services and social work  
<https://www.sccgov.org/sites/covid19/Pages/i-can-help.aspx>

#### *YMCA of Orange County*

- Twenty-eight YMCAs in Orange County are offering childcare services from 6:45 AM to 6:00 PM so that nurses can go to work. A staff member is dedicated at each site to sterilize and disinfect everything that the children and staff come in contact with. Children are screened for symptoms each day and stay in the same group of 10 throughout the day  
<https://abc7.com/ymca-free-childcare-oc-covid-coronavirus/6056867>

## Colorado (CO)

### *Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)*

- CDPHE recently launched a newly designed data visualization for COVID-19, featuring interactive tools for customizing views. Outbreak data can now be viewed by county. Hospital charts now include data by age, sex, race and ethnicity, and post-hospital outcomes  
<https://covid19.colorado.gov/data>

### *Office of the Governor Jared Polis*

- Amended Executive Order D 2020 070 to change the fund source for the accounting of certain CARES Act Fund dollars for education, and to clarify the permissible uses of CARES Act Fund dollars for units of local government
- Initiated a COVID-19 Innovation Response Team, taking a multipronged approach that includes increased testing, tailored social-distancing measures, a reinforced health care system, and a bolstering of state epidemiological resources  
<https://covid19.colorado.gov/press-release/state-announces-residential-outbreak-task-force>

## Delaware (DE)

### *Delaware Health Care Facilities Association (DHCFA)*

- Arranged a dance party for staff
- There was a DJ set up outside of the facility and staff came out to dance while residents watched from the windows  
<https://www.dhcfa.org>

## District of Columbia (DC)

### *District of Columbia Hospital Association*

- Journey Live gives you guided meditation to help reduce your stress and anxiety, increase focus and productivity and find balance. Access to the App is free for the remainder of the year  
[https://mcusercontent.com/67e7a773996f97d87b3be7633/files/86437965-69b3-4452-9f16-47cae08871a6/DCHA\\_Journey\\_Meditation.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/67e7a773996f97d87b3be7633/files/86437965-69b3-4452-9f16-47cae08871a6/DCHA_Journey_Meditation.pdf)

## Florida (FL)

### *Florida Health Care Association*

- Shares COVID-19 information on its website  
<https://www.fhca.org>

### *Florida Health Care Coalitions*

- Offers dedicated page on website for COVID-19 information, including information about symptoms, handwashing, social distancing, and Q&As  
<https://floridahealthcovid19.gov>

### *Florida Hospital Association*

- Shares COVID-19 information on its website  
<http://www.fha.org>

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 14. Resources Continued

#### *Florida Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine (FMDA)*

- Provides COVID-19 library of related resources on web page  
<https://www.fmda.org/covid-19.php>

#### **Georgia (GA)**

##### *Georgia Department of Public Health (GA DPH)*

- Georgia DPH has been a supportive agency for all facets of health care during this pandemic
- Its ability to provide on-site support and develop a process for video audits has been invaluable to those that are in “hot spots” of COVID-19 activity
- Collects data from health care facilities on the State Electronic Notifiable Disease Surveillance System (SENDSS) network
- Supports health care facilities with virtual and on-site visits
- Tests for COVID-19 samples at the GA DPH laboratory  
<https://dph.georgia.gov>

#### **Hawaii (HI)**

##### *Center to Advance Palliative Care*

- Created COVID-19 toolkit to assist with palliative care, hospice, and end of life decisions  
<https://www.capc.org/toolkits/covid-19-response-resources>

##### *Hawaii Long Term Care (LTC) Workgroup, Hawaii Department of Health*

- The following resources from the Hawaii LTC Workgroup, which are accessible through the Mountain-Pacific Quality Health website, offer education and awareness around providing care during the COVID-19 outbreak, in accordance with the Hawaii Department of Health (DOH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines:
  - 5 Steps to Prepare You for Caring for a Person in a Foster or Care Home – PDF
  - 5 Steps When Caring for a Person with COVID-19 in the Home – PDF
  - 5 Steps to Practice Prevention of COVID-19 Every Day – PDF
  - Guidance for Other Care Givers and Case Managers – PDF
  - Guidance on What to Do if You Are A Caregiver Diagnosed with COVID-19 – PDF<https://www.mpqhf.org/QIO/quality-improvement-tools-resources/nursing-home-quality-improvement-tools-resources>

##### *Kokua Mau Continuous Care*

- Deployed a COVID-19-specific resource page  
<https://kokuamau.org/covid-19-resources>

#### **Idaho (ID)**

##### *Idaho Department of Health and Welfare*

- Posted a document describing the state’s Long term Care Strike Team. The Strike Team works with state health and emergency preparedness offices to ensure proper Personal Protective Equipment and guidance for long term care facilities. The document includes information on team members names, purpose and scope  
<https://coronavirus.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/long-term-care-strike-team.pdf>

14. Resources Continued

*Panhandle Health District*

- The Panhandle Health District has created an online dashboard for counties in the Idaho panhandle that provides localized COVID-19 information guidance for businesses and health care professionals  
<https://panhandlehealthdistrict.org/covid-19>

**Illinois (IL)**

*Chicago Department of Public Health*

- Created a web page of resources to provide guidance for the prevention and control of COVID-19 in long term care facilities (LTCFs)  
<https://www.chicagohan.org/covid-19/LTCF>

*Health Care Council of Illinois (HCCI)*

- Developed COVID-19 Resource page, updated daily with information regarding state and federal regulations, infection control, personal protective equipment (PPE), and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) information
- Prepares weekly member newsletters and email blasts on COVID-19 related resources and events throughout the state  
<http://www.hccil.org/covid-19>

*Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH)*

- IDPH monitors several indicators that measure the health burden of COVID-19 in each Illinois county and capture a county's ability to respond. These metrics are intended to be used for local-level awareness of each county's progress during Phase 4 and will help local leaders, businesses, local health departments, and the public make informed decisions and promote healthy behaviors  
<https://dph.illinois.gov/countymetrics?county=Adams>
- IDPH had long term care facilities complete a COVID-19 infection control assessment
- Telligen has partnered with IDPH to conduct outreach to nursing homes that do not have any cases of COVID-19, in order to proactively support infection prevention practices
- The IDPH COVID-19 website includes long term care guidance, information on facility outbreaks, and links to the governor's daily briefings, as well as key indicators to identify early but significant increases of COVID-19 transmission, which can signify a resurgence for 11 newly described regions  
<https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19>  
<https://dph.illinois.gov/regionmetrics?regionID=1>

*Illinois Health Care Association (IHCA)*

- Conduct weekly COVID-19 interactive updates on Facebook live member alerts  
<https://www.ihca.com/Files/COMM-COVID-19/Facebook%20Live-COVID%20Working%20Document-4-17-2020.pdf>
- Offers resource on steps to prevent COVID-19 from entering facility  
[https://www.ihca.com/Files/Comm\\_Article\\_Info&Updates/Preventing\\_COVID-19\\_From\\_Entering\\_Facilities.pdf](https://www.ihca.com/Files/Comm_Article_Info&Updates/Preventing_COVID-19_From_Entering_Facilities.pdf)



## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 14. Resources Continued

#### *LeadingAge Illinois*

- LeadingAge Illinois posted “Isolation and Precautions Quick Sheet,” a resource with updated guidance from the CDC on the following:
  - Duration of isolation and precautions for adults with COVID-19
  - Discontinuation of transmission-based precautions and disposition of COVID-19 patients in health care settings
  - Return-to-work criteria for health care personnel with SARS-CoV-2 infection[https://leadingageil.org/resources/2020/coronavirus/assets/Isolation\\_and\\_Precaution\\_Quick\\_Sheet.pdf](https://leadingageil.org/resources/2020/coronavirus/assets/Isolation_and_Precaution_Quick_Sheet.pdf)

#### *Office of the Governor J.B. Pritzker*

- Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker issued a Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation in response to the ongoing COVID-19 situation to assist Illinois agencies in coordinating state and federal resources, including the Strategic National Stockpile of medicines and protective equipment, to support local governments in preparation for any action that may be necessary related to the potential impact of COVID-19 in the state of Illinois  
<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/gov/Documents/APPROVED%20-%20Coronavirus%20Disaster%20Proc%20WORD.pdf>
- The Governor provides a coronavirus update briefing daily
- Drive through testing sites are available throughout the state; all health care workers and residents with symptoms are eligible for testing  
<https://dph.illinois.gov/covid19/covid-19-testing-sites>
- The State of Illinois updated their COVID-19 plan and website. The Restore Illinois Plan now has been divided up into 11 regions (there were four previously). This will provide a more focused approach to each area's COVID-19 response as the pandemic continues  
<https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/news>

#### *Rush University Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP)*

- Collaborating and supporting other Rush facilities and Illinois trade associations by providing free COVID-19 and infection prevention-related learning collaboratives and learning sessions to all provider types  
<http://catch-on.org>

#### **Indiana (IN)**

##### *Indiana National Nursing Home COVID-19 Action Network (INNHCAN) ECHO*

- INNHCAN ECHO has announced the launch of up to 120 Project ECHO sites beginning the week of November 9, 2020  
<https://www.ihca.org/resource/announcing-the-launch-of-indianas-nursing-home-covid-19-action-network-echo>

##### *Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH)*

- ISDH created a position to oversee the state's COVID-19 long term care response. This position worked between both ISDH, which provides the regulatory oversight of the facilities, and the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) Medicaid Agency and Division of Aging, which oversees the payment and care responses
- ISDH developed a COVID-19 toolkit for long term care facility staff with Respiratory Surveillance Line List and Respiratory Surveillance Outbreak Summary. The toolkit is a comprehensive list of resources and guidance for long term care facilities

14. Resources Continued

[https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN\\_COVID-19%20IP%20Toolkit%20ISDH\\_7.9.2020.pdf](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19%20IP%20Toolkit%20ISDH_7.9.2020.pdf)

- ISDH created dedicated area on its page for all long term care guidance  
<https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/2399.htm>
- ISDH reports weekly aggregate long term care data on its web page dashboard  
<https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/2393.htm>
- On July 24, 2020, ISDH updated COVID-19 Information for Long Term Care Facilities to include methods of spread, precautions for preventing introduction of COVID-19 into long term care facilities and guidelines for personal protective equipment (PPE)  
[https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN\\_COVID-19 LTC\\_07.23.20.pdf](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19_LTC_07.23.20.pdf)
- On October 17, 2020, the ISDH Long Term Care Newsletter provided helpful information on the below topics:
  - The support of nursing home residents' Constitutional right to vote.
  - Life Safety Code pertaining to the use of heaters in outdoor visitation structures
  - Through Indiana Civil Monetary Penalty funds, ISDH and University of Indianapolis are providing a free virtual training on infection prevention and control for long term care professionals working in Indiana skilled nursing facilities. Trainings will be held virtually and are designed to serve as an introduction to infection control with long term care specific content and examples. The training will also cover practices related to specific infections like COVID-19, *C. diff* and urinary tract infections. This training is designed to meet the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' regulations for infection prevention specialists working in long term care nursing facilities  
<https://www.in.gov/isdh/files/IDH%20Long%20Term%20Care%20Newsletter%20Issue%202020-64.pdf>

**Iowa (IA)**

*Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals (IDIA)*

- IDIA fields individual nursing home questions specific to survey or regulation, created a website FAQ document for support on common questions, and provides 1135 waiver guidance. During surveys, the Department encourages nursing homes to reach out to the Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) or Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) for support  
<https://dia.iowa.gov/about/novel-coronavirus-covid-19>
- Resources are provided and posted for nursing homes to access the most current updates or locate assistance according to their needs  
<https://dia.iowa.gov/about/novel-coronavirus-covid-19>

*Iowa Department of Public Health*

- IDPH website houses multiple resources for COVID-19 guidance and long term care recorded webinars
- IDPH conducts support webinars with ample Q&A time
- IDPH manages hotline and individual nursing home assistance via email
- IDPH provides support through emergency response team available (for example, personal protective equipment [PPE] supply)
- IDPH creates guidance documents for state specific requirements and reporting support  
<https://idph.iowa.gov/Emerging-Health-Issues/Novel-Coronavirus/Long-Term-Care>
- For nursing homes newly identified or with a time span since the last COVID-19 case was reported, IDPH is calling nursing homes to complete a preparedness checklist with the facility
- *In combined effort with the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA), the IDPH is*

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 14. Resources Continued

*performing Tele-ICAR assessment to non-COVID facilities and minimal amount of COVID active cases. This is in response to urgent needs in prevention of an outbreak at the facility*

#### *Iowa Health Care Association*

- Provides individual technical assistance; group meeting support; a weekly conference call; regular member newsletters; survey, reporting, and regulatory guidance; and a website that houses multiple COVID-19 resources, including a toolkit, the Telligent Telehealth Guide, updates and other topics  
<https://www.iowahealthcare.org/member-resources/emergency-preparedness/infection-control-resources>

#### *Iowa Long Term Care Ombudsman*

- Provides individual nursing home support for advocacy of needs at resident level
- Supports residents and families with concerns
- Encourages nursing homes to reach out to the Quality Improvement Organization (QIO), the Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA), and the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) for support
- Website houses multiple resources  
<https://www.iowaaging.gov/educational-resources/covid-19-older-iowans>

#### *LeadingAge of Iowa*

- Provides individual technical assistance; a weekly conference call; regular member newsletters; survey and regulatory guidance; and a website housing multiple COVID-19 topics  
<https://www.leadingageiowa.org/covid-19>

#### *Office of the Governor Kim Reynolds*

- The governor's COVID-19 website includes information for long term care facilities that link to resources from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)  
<https://coronavirus.iowa.gov>

#### *University of Iowa*

- The National Nursing Home Social Work Network is a geriatric workforce enhancement program funded by grants from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to develop a health care workforce that maximizes patient safety and engagement and to improve health outcomes for older adults. Much of its work is focused on long term care
- The program offers a weekly online support group meeting and multiple online resources for advance care planning, ethical decisions, and how to prepare and support residents, staff, families, and themselves  
<https://clas.uiowa.edu/socialwork/nursing-home/national-nursing-home-social-work-network>

## **Kansas (KS)**

#### *Topeka Center for Rehab*

- Facility worked with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on the development of their surge plan, including an establishing a morgue plan. The morgue plan includes outside facilities that the nursing home would be able to use if needed and a separate area/room which has supplies such as body bags, toe tags and deodorizer

14. Resources Continued

**Kentucky (KY)**

*Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS)*

- The Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services developed a long term care (LTC) portal for COVID-19 resources. The "e-storefront" was developed to help LTC providers more easily find CHFS resources online, including guidance memos, FAQs, forms and instructions and the Kentucky COVID-19 LTC county indicator  
<https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/os/oig/dhc/Pages/cvltc.aspx>

*Kentucky Department of Health, Kentucky Hospital Association*

- The Kentucky Department of Health and Kentucky Hospital Association are hosting a weekly COVID-19 Infection Prevention Office Hour. Nursing homes and hospitals are invited to attend. While there is no formal presentation or structure, Office Hours provides a platform for attendees to ask questions and share best practices
  - Call in #: 1.866.754.7476
  - Passcode:7411903133#

*Kentucky Hospital Association*

- The Kentucky Hospital Association (KHA) developed a COVID-19 toolkit that is available on its website and includes guidance documents on closure and reopening of elective procedures, visitation, health care employee return to work, and discharge of hospital patients to long term care  
<https://www.kyha.com/admin-resources>

*Norton Health Care*

- Developed a post-acute team and call line to assist skilled nursing facilities
- Expects the call line to be rolled out statewide (more guidance on the web page)  
<https://kahcfkcal.org>

*State of Kentucky*

- The state of Kentucky is maintaining a website which contains information about COVID-19 testing center locations, rates of infection by state and county, a COVID-19 Hotline (800-722-5725), a link to a daily report of COVID-19 epidemiological data, and a link to the most current long term care update by the state  
<https://govstatus.egov.com/kycovid19>

**Maine (ME)**

*Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)*

- MaineCare will pay extra costs associated with COVID-19, including staffing, supplies, and personal protective equipment, with \$10.1 million in state and federal funds to support facilities  
<https://www.maine.gov/governor/mills/news/mills-administration-takes-steps-support-nursing-homes-response-covid-19-2020-03-26>
- The Division of Licensing and Certification partnered with the state health department and the ombudsman program to pool resources to complete Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) programs in all Maine nursing facilities within three days  
<https://www.maine.gov/tools/whatsnew/index.php?topic=DHS+Press+Releases&id=2410756&v=article>

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 14. Resources Continued

#### *Maine Health Care Association*

- Encouraged children to write notes, upload a drawing, or send a short video to residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities  
<https://www.mehca.org/e-notes4ltc>

#### **Maryland (MD)**

##### *Anne Arundel County Department of Aging and Disabilities*

- MY STORY is a form developed to help families document personalized information about the needs and preferences of their loved one. The form provides important information to support high quality, person-centered care from health care professionals and caregivers  
<https://www.aacounty.org/services-and-programs/my-story>

##### *FutureCare Nursing Homes*

- Established an employee phone line for staff to answer questions related to COVID-19
- The phone line is open between 9 AM – 5 PM daily  
<https://futurecare.com/covidanswerline>
- Dr. William Mansbach developed five employee support videos on diet and hydration, breathing, information overload, physical exercise, and cognitive exercises  
<https://futurecare.com/employeesupport>

##### *Health Facilities Association of Maryland*

- Maryland COVID-19 Crisis Support Program provides free, confidential mental health support to employees of Maryland's long term health care facilities impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak  
<https://www.hfam.org/covid-19>

##### *SavaSeniorCare Administrative Services*

- Created a toolkit to support residents and staff in having meaningful engagement while practicing social distancing and precautions
- The goal is to ensure there is connection in the ways it matters most  
<https://www.savaseniorcare.com/sava-announcements>

##### *The Green House Project*

- In partnership with Project ECHO® (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes), a video tele-mentoring platform that spreads knowledge through real-time sharing, learning, and access to subject matter experts, the COVID-19 Best Practices in Nursing Homes initiative will identify and share proven protocols and lessons learned that long term care professionals can use for preparedness, management, and treatment of COVID-19. All sessions are offered free of charge to all nursing home providers  
<https://www.thegreenhouseproject.org/events/covid-19-best-practices-ltc-initiative>

#### **Massachusetts (MA)**

##### *State of Massachusetts*

- State waived requirement for in-person documentation related to Medical Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (MOLST). This allowed for conversations to continue with family and practitioners supporting the resident choice for end of life care  
<https://www.honoringchoicesmass.com/ma-allows-verbal-consent-on-molst>

14. Resources Continued

*Massachusetts General Brigham Center for COVID Innovation*

- The Massachusetts General Brigham Center for COVID Innovation was launched to help coordinate, facilitate, and rapidly develop innovations for the most pressing COVID-19 issues affecting patients, frontline health care workers and the community  
<https://www.brighamandwomens.org/covid-19/center-for-covid-innovation>

**Michigan (MI)**

*Detroit Health Department, Office of the Mayor Mike Duggan, Henry Ford Health System Division of Infectious Diseases*

- Conducted multiple testings for residents and health care workers at 26 Detroit nursing homes, provisioned personal protective equipment, and conducted in-person education and consultation on infection prevention and control for all 26 facilities  
<https://www.henryford.com/news/2020/07/altimetrik-update>

*Henry Ford Health System (HFHS)*

- Uses information technology with CarePort to help find appropriate beds for patients during peak crisis. Donated excess personal protective equipment (PPE) to skilled nursing facilities, home health care agencies, and community partners
- Work collaboratively with CarePort/Allscripts to help home dialysis facilities cohort patients. Certain organizations are contacted twice daily to notify them of patients being discharged and their COVID-19 status. This ensures that these organizations were able to isolate and protect all patients and staff
- Collaborate with a regional hub for an outpatient COVID-19 unit by providing staff support to prepare the new unit to accept COVID-19-positive patients that needed placement  
<https://www.henryford.com/coronavirus>

*Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)*

- The Michigan Nursing Homes COVID-19 Preparedness Task Force presented its final recommendations to the Governor, on how to further protect nursing home residents  
[https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-73970\\_71692-538524--,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-73970_71692-538524--,00.html)
- The COVID-19 Infection Prevention Resource and Assessment Team (iPRAT) was activated by MDHHS to prevent COVID-19 infections and contain the spread of COVID-19 in long term care facilities
- The team works closely with the Medical Services Administration, Michigan Long Term Care Ombudsman, Michigan Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, and local health department partners
- MDHHS announced an infection prevention grant program to support facility equipment improvements that achieve more effective infection prevention and control  
[https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/NF\\_Infection\\_Prevention\\_Control\\_Enhancements\\_Grant\\_IC\\_grant\\_app\\_appendix.20200828\\_700817\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/NF_Infection_Prevention_Control_Enhancements_Grant_IC_grant_app_appendix.20200828_700817_7.pdf)

*Michigan Hospital Association*

- Launched a hospital donation tool  
<https://protecttheheroes.org>
- Hosts hospital donation sites link to collect financial and personal protective equipment donations to help their local facilities  
<https://mha.org/Portals/0/Issues%20and%20Advocacy/michigan-hospital-donations-covid->

[19.pdf](#)

*University of Michigan College of Engineering, Precision Health, Michigan Medicine*

- Developed the model which uses a machine-learning algorithm to crunch more than 200 health and demographic variables of individual COVID-19 patients. The model then outputs a numerical score, updated every four hours, that predicts the patient's likelihood of requiring intensive care unit-level care. Preliminary validation of the model has shown it to be effective in predicting the progression of the disease

<https://ihpi.umich.edu/news/faster-covid-computer-model-predicts-diseases-next-move>

*University of Michigan-Dearborn Aging Well Lab*

- The Aging Well Lab at the University of Michigan-Dearborn is conducting a research study, currently in progress, to capture how older adults' perceptions, behaviors, and experience shift as the COVID-19 pandemic develops

<https://www.umdagingwelllab.com/research-studies>

**Minnesota (MN)**

*Beaumont*

- Advance care planning in-service provides skilled nursing facilities and other health care settings tools and resources for initiating the advance care planning conversation during COVID-19

[www.beaumont.org/patients-families/respecting-choices-at-beaumont-advance-care-planning](http://www.beaumont.org/patients-families/respecting-choices-at-beaumont-advance-care-planning)

*Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)*

- The COVID-19 Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) Action Plan developed by MDH prepares nursing homes for COVID-19 by addressing these topics: administrative, surveillance, education, hand hygiene, transmission-based precautions, personal protective equipment, cleaning, and transfers
- Posted a long term care toolkit, intended for use to plan for a potential COVID-19 case or during an outbreak at a facility. Nursing homes can download this toolkit to implement measures to prevent and control disease spread in their homes, and to collect data that will help track respiratory illness and COVID-19 in residents and staff

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/ltctoolkit.pdf>

*Minnesota Association for Geriatrics Inspired Clinicians (MAGIC)*

- Created Managing COVID-19: A Guide for Skilled Nursing Facilities and Assisted Living Settings developed by MAGIC Clinical Practice Alliance Committee (CPAC)
- MAGIC thoroughly reviewed publications from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), and AMDA The Society for Post-Acute and Long Term Care Medicine and developed a comprehensive guide to provide concise information for managing COVID-19

<https://www.minnesotageriatrics.org/covid-19.html>

**Mississippi (MS)**

*Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) – Epidemiology Department*

- Partners with MSDH Licensure & Certification with frequent contact
- Provides consultation to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in nursing homes
- Assists with personal protective equipment attainment

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 14. Resources Continued

- Nursing homes that have COVID-19 cases receive daily follow-up

#### Missouri (MO)

##### Missouri Department of Public Health

- Website provides a local, zip code-level map of positive cases, as well as charts/graphs of COVID-19 cases and deaths by age, sex, and race
- A map of testing locations also is provided, with a hotline number and resources for the public <https://www.stlcorona.com>

##### Quality Improvement Program for Missouri (QIPMO)

- In addition to an online COVID-19 resource compendium, QIPMO recently developed a COVID-19 SBAR (Situation, Background, Appearance/Assessment, Review/Recommendation) tool for nursing homes <https://nursinghomehelp.org/educational/sbar-for-covid-19>
- The COVID-19 SBAR is used by facilities to document and communicate changes in resident status due to COVID-19 that would require action to be taken such as transfer to acute care <https://nursinghomehelp.org/educationcategory/coronavirus-covid-19>

#### Montana (MT)

##### Montana Department of Public Health

- Emergency preparedness program assists providers and communities with COVID-19 resources, information, and supplies/personal protective equipment requests <https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/PHEP>

##### Montana Regional Healthcare Coalition (RHCC)

- The Montana Regional Healthcare Coalition announced a grant opportunity for health care providers/members in each region. The “Regional Healthcare Coalition COVID-19 Mini Grant” project period is from October 1, 2020 through December 22, 2020, with a cap of \$3,500.00. Grant applications will be reviewed beginning in January 2020 and awards will be made in February or sooner. Grant applications are due no later than December 20, 2020, although there are no guarantees grant monies will still be available. The following are proposed initiatives and focus areas from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR):
  - Infectious Disease Education/Training
  - Infectious Disease Exercise
  - Personal Protective Equipment (see grant applications for specific requirements)
  - Equipment (see grant application for specific requirements)[https://pheap.formstack.com/forms/rhcc\\_grant\\_application\\_copy](https://pheap.formstack.com/forms/rhcc_grant_application_copy)

#### Nebraska (NE)

##### American Red Cross Innovative Blood resources (IBR)

- Facilitates plasma donation from people who have fully recovered from COVID-19 for at least two weeks <https://www.innovativebloodresources.org>  
<https://www.ncbb.org>  
<https://www.redcrossblood.org/donate-blood/dlp/plasma-donations-from-recovered-covid-19-patients.html>



## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 14. Resources Continued

#### *Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI)*

- Lists facilities involved in Mayo Clinic Protocol-COVID-19 convalescent plasma donation  
<https://www.catholichealthinitiatives.org/en/patient-care/locations.html>

#### *Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services*

- Expanded Medicaid to lower income adults (aged 19 to 64) who earn up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level. Nebraska Medicaid will begin accepting applications for HHA on August 1, 2020. Benefits will begin on October 1, 2020  
<http://dhhs.ne.gov/Medicaid%20Provider%20Bulletins/Provider%20Bulletin%202020-26.pdf>
- Opened a statewide COVID-19 information line to answer general questions and share the latest information and resources to help keep Nebraskans informed. The number is (402) 552-6645 or toll-free at (833) 998-2275; hours of operation are 8 AM to 8 PM Central Time, 7 days a week  
<http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/DHHS-Friday-COVID-19-Update-071020.aspx>

#### *Nebraska Health Care Association, Nebraska Medical Center Partners in Preparedness Mentor Project*

- Awarded grant to foster mentorship with hospitals and nursing homes to enhance navigation through rapidly changing recommendations, connection with resources, provision of best practices, and encouragement  
<http://www.providermagazine.com/news/Pages/2020/JUNE%202020/New-Partnership-Helps-Nebraska-Pandemic-Response.aspx>

#### **Nevada (NV)**

##### *Chamber of Commerce*

- The Vegas Chamber launched the “Switch to Kindness” gift card program to support local businesses and first responders and help infuse cash into small businesses. The program has gained recent popularity in southern Nevada  
<https://www.vegachamber.com/switch-to-kindness-vegas-chamber-launches-gift-card-program-to-support-local-businesses-and-first-responder>

##### *Nevada Rural Hospital Partners*

- The Nevada rural hospital partners that support all rural health care facilities, including nursing homes, developed a COVID-19 resource toolkit  
<https://nrhp.org/coronavirus>

##### *Office of the Governor Steve Sisolak*

- Established the Nevada COVID-19 Response, Relief and Recovery Task Force, a public-private partnership overseen by the Governor's Office and the Nevada Health Response Center, to assist in the response, relief, and recovery efforts to provide assistance and supplies to first responders and health care providers  
<https://www.nevadacf.org/nevada-community-foundation-establishes-covid-19-emergency-response-fund>

### New Hampshire (NH)

#### *New Hampshire Department of Education*

- Nursing homes have been offering a resource to staff created by the New Hampshire Department of Education called Healthy Habits for Well-Being, which provides self-care guidance to help relieve anxiety during the pandemic. It includes instructions to help identify the five signs that someone may need help  
<https://www.education.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt326/files/inline-documents/2020/healthyhabits.pdf>

### New Jersey (NJ)

#### *LeadingAge*

- Resident engagement during social isolation: Presentations and recommendations from members to keep residents engaged during social isolation  
[https://leadingage.org/resident-engagement-during-social-isolation?mkt\\_tok=eyJpIjoiT1RReVlXSTFZekl3TkdvVeilsInQiOiJGRUJKZEhBckJuQ2hnM2tBWDZCcDZBV2xuNWJyXC9mTE1XQ1c1R1pZVnFnem8yUW45NkNSWTBYMkVBUE5CZXBycDJmc2xiYkt4Sm5zNlhaXC9RQzRHY09aelA1TWWhGaXJkS1VubW5XeXpW](https://leadingage.org/resident-engagement-during-social-isolation?mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiT1RReVlXSTFZekl3TkdvVeilsInQiOiJGRUJKZEhBckJuQ2hnM2tBWDZCcDZBV2xuNWJyXC9mTE1XQ1c1R1pZVnFnem8yUW45NkNSWTBYMkVBUE5CZXBycDJmc2xiYkt4Sm5zNlhaXC9RQzRHY09aelA1TWWhGaXJkS1VubW5XeXpW)

#### *Health Care Association of New Jersey*

- Statewide organization providing updates on most current and authoritative information on COVID-19 relevant to facilities in New Jersey  
<https://www.hcanj.org/covid-19-information>

#### *New Jersey Department of Health*

- The Tele-ICAR tool for long-term care and assisted living facilities was developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and is intended to help long term care (LTC) and assisted living facilities (ALF) respond effectively to COVID-19 by evaluating the status of their current response activities  
[https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/COVID\\_Tele\\_ICAR\\_Assess\\_Tool.pdf](https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/COVID_Tele_ICAR_Assess_Tool.pdf)
- The Guidance for COVID-19 Diagnosed and/or Exposed Healthcare Personnel resource addresses the widespread transmission of COVID-19 in New Jersey, the likelihood of asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic transmission, and the feasibility and benefits of formal contact tracing in health care settings  
[https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/Guidance\\_for\\_COVID19\\_Diagnosed\\_and\\_or\\_Exposed\\_HCP.pdf](https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/Guidance_for_COVID19_Diagnosed_and_or_Exposed_HCP.pdf)
- The Quick Reference: Discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions and Home Isolation for Persons Diagnosed with COVID-19 tool helps health care facilities, health care providers, and local public health officials determine when to discontinue isolation for persons with confirmed COVID-19  
[https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/COVID-QuickRef\\_Discont\\_Isolation\\_and\\_TBP.pdf](https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/COVID-QuickRef_Discont_Isolation_and_TBP.pdf)
- Developed the retrospective assessment tool for health care personnel (HCP) potentially exposed to COVID-19. This tool can be used to assess HCP exposure risk prior to the patient being identified as having COVID-19  
<https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/Retrospective%20Assessment%20Tool%20for%20Healthcare%20Personnel%20Potentially%20Exposed%20to%20COVID-19.pdf>

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 14. Resources Continued

- This document can be used to assess the type of potential exposure health care personnel may have experienced while caring for the COVID-19 patient and assign risk level (high, medium, low, or no risk). It also provides guidance on the management of exposed health care personnel  
[https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/Healthcare%20Personnel%20\(HCP\)%20Exposure%20to%20Confirmed%20COVID-19%20Case%20Risk%20Algorithm.pdf](https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/Healthcare%20Personnel%20(HCP)%20Exposure%20to%20Confirmed%20COVID-19%20Case%20Risk%20Algorithm.pdf)
- This tool can be used to monitor and assess the appropriate use of personal protective equipment (PPE) for health care personnel caring for the COVID-19 patient after they have been identified in the facility  
[https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/NJDOH%20COVID-19%20Healthcare%20Personnel%20\(HCP\)%20Exposure%20Checklist.pdf](https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/NJDOH%20COVID-19%20Healthcare%20Personnel%20(HCP)%20Exposure%20Checklist.pdf)
- Tool incorporates recommendations and reporting requirements to assist in the control of outbreak at facility  
[https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/COVID\\_Outbreak\\_Management\\_Checklist.pdf](https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/COVID_Outbreak_Management_Checklist.pdf)
- Information for providers and families on Physicians Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) and end of life conversations  
<https://nj.gov/health/advancedirective/polst>
- Tool can be used by a health care facility or local health department to track HCP under active monitoring  
[https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/covid2019\\_healthcare.shtml#2](https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/covid2019_healthcare.shtml#2)
- This tool can be used by a health care facility or local health department to assist HCP with daily symptom monitoring  
<https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/NJDOH%20COVID-19%20Fever%20and%20Symptom%20Monitoring%20Log%20for%20HCP%203.9.20.pdf>

#### *New Jersey Department of Health Infection Control Assessment Response Team (ICAR)*

- New Jersey Department of Health ICAR team provides one-hour virtual consultations to nursing homes to support infection prevention and control (IPC) activities based on the nursing home's completed tele-ICAR assessment  
[https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/COVID\\_Tele\\_ICAR\\_Assess\\_Tool.pdf](https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/COVID_Tele_ICAR_Assess_Tool.pdf)

#### *New Jersey Department of Human Services*

- Funding used to expand access to counseling and other mental health support during the pandemic. The funds help New Jersey residents facing behavioral health issues during this crisis get the emotional support they need  
<https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/news/pressreleases/2020/approved/20200518.html>

### **New Mexico (NM)**

#### *State of New Mexico*

- Set up a COVID-19 website, including information about symptoms, handwashing, social distancing, and Q&As
- Informational hotlines established to educate and inform on fact vs. fiction
- Nursing homes have distributed iPads for residents to facilitate virtual communication and visits with families
- Infection preventionists from the local public health districts and state departments of health are providing consultations to nursing homes

### **New York (NY)**

#### *Association for Aging in New York*

- Launched “CV19 CheckUp,” an online tool that provides a personalized COVID-19 risk report. After spending 5 to 10 minutes answering questions, users will immediately receive a custom report based on lifestyle and habits. The report includes the user’s likelihood of contracting and spreading COVID-19, the potential severity of symptoms and steps for reducing risk  
<https://newyork.cv19checkup.org/?fbclid=IwAR0n6Du7QZa8p36PmXs9lYKX8Yg0XHPFTVtcLkH5rUF2aIVWB7v9uFbqWvA>

#### *Long Term Care Community Coalition*

- The Emergency Action Plan: Save Lives of Residents in New York Long Term Care Facilities resource highlights components of a recommended COVID-19 action plan based on existing policies, known issues and concerns (i.e., preventing COVID-19 from entering nursing homes, daily resident monitoring, sufficient staffing, infection prevention and control transparency, personal protective equipment availability, resident and staff testing)  
<https://nursinghome411.org/covid-emergency-action-plan>

#### *Greater New York Health Care Facilities Association*

- Current updates and resources relevant to facilities in the metropolitan New York area  
<https://gnyhcfa.org/covid-19>

#### *New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH)*

- New York City (NYC) COVID-19 Care Network: A volunteer network of support for essential workers, their families, and any uninsured New Yorkers
- Front line essential workers and their families have free access to support from a volunteer mental, emotional, or spiritual care professional  
<https://nyccovidcare.org>
- Health care workers can text NYFRONTLINE to 741-741 to access 24/7 emotional support services  
<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>
- NYSDOH released Factors Associated with Nursing Home Infections and Fatalities in New York State During the COVID-19 Global Health Crisis. To prepare for future public health pandemic response, this Executive Summary provides an overview of the results of New York COVID-19 data pertaining to nursing home resident fatalities, employee infection, and transmission. Conclusions note the need for better training of staff, enhanced rapid testing, and better coordination with other healthcare facilities  
[https://health.ny.gov/press/releases/2020/docs/nh\\_factors\\_report.pdf](https://health.ny.gov/press/releases/2020/docs/nh_factors_report.pdf)

#### *New York State Long Term Care Ombudsman Program COVID-19 Response*

- In an effort to assist the public and relieve anxieties, the New York State Ombudsmen Offices have done systematic outreach to inform the public of its continued services, including letters to the editors of local newspapers  
<https://www.syracuse.com/opinion/2020/04/long-term-care-ombudsman-still-accepting-concerns-about-patient-care-your-letters.html>

*New York State Office of Mental Health*

- Released a resource on managing anxiety in an anxiety-provoking situation, including guidance and tips for individuals receiving mental health services; parents, including parents of children with pre-existing anxiety disorders; caregivers of older adults; and mental health providers  
<https://omh.ny.gov/omhweb/guidance/covid-19-managing-stress-anxiety.pdf>
- Outlines health care decisions process for individuals who are intellectually disabled and Medical Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (MOLST) to comply with New York State public health law for end of life decisions for individuals with developmental or intellectual disorders
  - Links to resources and information to expedite the process for obtaining urgent approval for end of life decisions for individuals who are intellectually disabled
  - Instructions on how to get urgent access and training to utilize the electronic MOLST and access the MOLST electronic database  
<https://molst.org/covid-19-guidance>

*New York University (NYU)*

- On the Front Line – COVID-19 Initiatives outlines ways to manage different facets of life under the spread of the COVID-19 virus, ranging from how to combat racially driven bias and fake news to how to increase cooperation and better manage stress  
<https://www.nyu.edu/life/safety-health-wellness/coronavirus-information/nyu-responds-to-covid-19/on-the-frontline.html>

*Office of the Governor Andrew Cuomo, New York Department of Health*

- Governor Andrew Cuomo has ordered all nursing home staff to be tested at least twice a week for the virus and has barred hospitals from discharging any COVID-19 patient to a nursing facility until that individual tests negative for infection. If a nursing home is deemed unable to provide proper treatment and support for a recovering resident, that person is to be transferred to the care of the state, which has ample hospital bed capacity for such patients  
<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-usa/new-york-steps-up-coronavirus-protections-for-nursing-home-residents-idUSKBN22M001>
- Due to a statutory change which the legislature approved at the beginning of March, Governor Cuomo can change or suspend laws unilaterally, so long as doing so assists the state in its disaster response
- With respect to nursing homes, individuals who do not work for boards of elections are now allowed to help residents of nursing homes fill out absentee ballots  
<https://www.politico.com/states/new-york/albany/story/2020/03/19/every-law-and-regulation-suspended-by-cuomo-during-the-coronavirus-crisis-1268180>
- Issued guidance and recommended practices to assist nursing homes in processing the removal of decedents  
[https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/04/doh\\_nhresidentdeaths\\_041920.pdf](https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/04/doh_nhresidentdeaths_041920.pdf)

14. Resources Continued

*Soho MD*

- Soho MD psychiatrists offer virtual and text messaging support via telehealth. The company has begun using the Lief Smart Patch to monitor a patient's heart rate and breathing patterns to identify anxiety levels in real time. This information can be downloaded into the electronic health record (EHR)  
<https://mhealthintelligence.com/news/a-nyc-telemental-health-clinic-uses-mhealth-to-gain-new-insights-into-care>

**North Carolina (NC)**

*Division of Health and Human Services, Office of the Governor Roy Cooper*

- The Governor's COVID-19 task force created a website specific to long term care facilities and a long term care facility toolkit  
<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/public-health/covid19/long-term-care-facilities>  
<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/public-health/covid19/covid-19-guidance#long-term-care-facilities>

*Duke Health Population Health Management Office*

- Duke Health Population Health Management Office created a Skilled Nursing Facility COVID-19 Advisory Team that includes experts in infectious disease, geropsychiatry, palliative care, and case management who can answer questions and find solutions to any problem related to COVID-19. Questions can be submitted online through their website or tweeted to @DukePhmo  
<https://phmo.dukehealth.org/covid-19-snf>

*Duke University, Duke Health Population Health Management*

- Duke Health Population Health Management offers a website and updates for skilled nursing facilities  
<https://phmo.dukehealth.org/covid-19-snf>
- Offers frequent updates to the COVID-19 for skilled nursing facilities materials repository  
<https://duke.app.box.com/v/COVID19forSNF>

*North Carolina Area Health Education Center, North Carolina Department of Public Health*

- North Carolina Area Health Education Center (AHEC) and North Carolina Department of Public Health (DPH) hosts calls on the second and fourth Thursday at 10am for long term care facilities. Subject matter experts from DPH will provide a quick update on any new developments and respond to questions received during the forum. Slides are archived on the website  
<https://www.ncahec.net/covid-19/webinars>

*North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS)*

- NCDHHS added hospitalization demographic data to the North Carolina COVID-19 Hospitalizations Demographics Dashboard. Data are provided by age, gender, race, and ethnicity for patients who are newly admitted to the hospital and confirmed or suspected to be positive for COVID-19 at the time of admission. The data provide further insight into the different demographic groups being hospitalized due to COVID-19  
<https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/dashboard/hospitalization-demographics>
- NCDHHS has launched a new Initiative to promote face mask use, social distancing, and hand washing: "Know your W's: Wear Wait Wash"

14. Resources Continued

<https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/guidance/healthcare/COVID-19-Statewide-Standing-Order.pdf>

- NCDHHS released a fact sheet that gives an overview of what support is available to help eligible residents in target counties to safely isolate/quarantine and what providers can do to connect residents to available resources

<https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/info-for/health-care/NCDHHS-Support-Services-Testing-and-Contact-Tracing-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

**North Dakota (ND)**

*North Dakota Council on the Arts - Art for Life Program*

- To combat the stress, loneliness and other negative health factors during the COVID-19 quarantine, the North Dakota Council on the Arts - Art for Life Program has redesigned art activities to align with physical distancing and other safety factors while still generating meaningful, impactful interaction. One such effort was beautifully done by Chuck Suchy, a talented and highly respected folk singer, musician and songwriter from rural Mandan, North Dakota (ND). Chuck called elders on the phone and visited with them about their lives, thoughts, and experiences. Using words of inspiration generated from those conversations, four songs were written, performed, and recorded to be shared with those elders, their families, and others within those organizations and in those communities. "We Worked with Horses," was inspired by conversations from Jamestown, ND; "Listen to the Wise," from Enderlin, ND; "At the Center," and "How Will I Know Your Heart," both from Bismarck, ND. The production and sharing of these poignant, relevant tributes is also made possible through the partnering entities of Bismarck Art & Galleries Association and Burleigh County Senior Adults Program in Bismarck, ND, Enderlin Municipal Fine Arts Association and Maryhill Manor Nursing Home in Enderlin, ND, and Jamestown Fine Arts Association and Ave Maria Village/Heritage Centre in Jamestown, ND  
<https://greatplainsqin.org/blog/music-the-art-of-life>

*COVID Stops Here Community Campaign, Burleigh-Morton*

- The Burleigh-Morton community in North Dakota has launched a community campaign, including promotional materials and community member perspectives. The campaign is called "COVID Stops Here"  
<https://covidstopshere.com>

**Ohio (OH)**

*Canterbury Rehab*

- Lessons learned from the COVID-19 outbreak at Canterbury Rehab useful for pre-surge planning on stocking STAT boxes, cohorting, testing, personal protective equipment supplies, and tracking  
[https://www.ohiomda.org/aws/OMDA/asset\\_manager/get\\_file/439319/lessons\\_learned.pdf](https://www.ohiomda.org/aws/OMDA/asset_manager/get_file/439319/lessons_learned.pdf)

*LeadingAge*

- Website on helping residents stay connected during the pandemic created a warrior spirit while preparing for COVID-19 cases
- State actions shared for preparing staff for "normalizing the experience" of caring for residents who are COVID-19 positive
- Includes collaborative activities/drills performed in an effort to allay staff fears and elevate morale  
<https://leadingage.org/helping-residents-stay-connected-during->

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 14. Resources Continued

[pandemic?mkt\\_tok=eyJpIjoiWTJRNVpUSTRNR1F4WWprMilsInQiOiI0cGZzaWZNXc9LUkFvcGRUdkVMa1BxNzBPa2J0U1RiZ3loZys4VTRxbGZZb0lBU21jakg4azJ3YXRiekpKQjBxR0lzbWNaeFFkaTh6V VVHK0hCeG0xR1Z1bmxMQ05pVU9SeEtnan!](https://www.leadingage.org/sites/default/files/SC_Connect_Toolkit_Oranizations_OlderAdults.pdf?_ga=2.33962017.1076603912.1589991326-147757919.1574109328)

- Created a new technology that enables people to record remotely through a computer or a mobile device. Through StoryCorps Connect, participants can record conversations and instantly share them with the StoryCorps Archive and the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress

[https://www.leadingage.org/sites/default/files/SC\\_Connect\\_Toolkit\\_Oranizations\\_OlderAdults.pdf?\\_ga=2.33962017.1076603912.1589991326-147757919.1574109328](https://www.leadingage.org/sites/default/files/SC_Connect_Toolkit_Oranizations_OlderAdults.pdf?_ga=2.33962017.1076603912.1589991326-147757919.1574109328)

#### National Rural Health Association

- Offers COVID-19 resource toolkit for rural providers and health systems
- Toolkit for rural providers is maintained and updated by rural health providers

<https://www.ruralhealthweb.org/programs/resources/covid-19-resources>

#### Ohio Department of Health

- The Ohio Departments of Aging, Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Medicaid worked together to create a toolkit for provider organizations and staff serving Ohioans who use long term services and supports (LTSS) or home visiting services during the COVID-19 crisis. This toolkit reflects an aggressive approach to protecting the community for any possible “surge” of individuals contracting COVID-19

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/docs/Pre-Surge-Longer-Term-Planning-Toolkit.pdf>

- The Responsible RestartOhio Guide for Health Care is designed to provide insight and best practices to resume non-urgent health care services across the state through a stepwise approach. This guide is intended to be a resource for patients, providers, health systems and Ohio’s COVID-19 Three Zone response infrastructure as the state begins to resume typical standards of health care.

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/RestartOhio-Health-Care-Guide.pdf>

#### Office of the Governor Mike DeWine

- Governor DeWine’s web page announces any new changes to public policy as it pertains to COVID-19 and nursing homes
- Web page also directs visitors to Ohio Department of Health’s COVID-19 website that provides the latest data on COVID-19
- Some of this data does specifically pertain to Ohio’s nursing homes

<https://governor.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/governor> (log in required)

#### Ohio Council for Home Care and Hospice

- Personal protective equipment (PPE) COVID-19 recommendations: PowerPoint presentations covering PPE strategies, optimization of supplies, and use and re-use protocols

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/gah35m6xfijutim/PPE%20PP%202.pptx?dl=0>

#### Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

- Developed a free confidential call line to assist those struggling with mental health issues stress and mental fatigue (including health care workers)

<https://mha.ohio.gov/Health-Professionals/About-Mental-Health-and-Addiction-Treatment/Emergency-Preparedness/Coronavirus/COVID-CareLine>



*Ohio Department of Health*

- Created a call center to answer questions about COVID-19 that operates from 9 AM to 8 PM daily, including weekends. Call center staff includes licensed nurses and infectious disease experts available to answer questions and provide accurate information about COVID-19, how to protect yourself and prepare for COVID-19 in your community, its risk to the public, and the state's response  
<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/resources/COVID-19-Call-Center>
- COVID-19 education/resource allocation
- Allocation of personal protective equipment from the federal government
- Education/resources made available through website
  - The What Workers and Employers Can Do to Manage Workplace Fatigue During COVID-19 web page outlines general strategies that workers and employers can use to manage workplace fatigue and work safely  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/managing-workplace-fatigue.html>
  - Other topics include but are not limited to: face mask decontamination, emergency preparedness, preserving personal protective equipment, lab testing, trauma-informed care, exposure management, medication use, care for critically ill, infection control practices, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention resources, World Health Organization resources, and health care provider stress  
<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/healthcare-providers-and-local-health-districts/for-healthcare-providers/for-healthcare-providers>
- STRIVE: The new Strategies for Preventing health care acquired infections (HAIs) training is the latest of 11 new infection control training courses. These courses are part of the new STRIVE curriculum intended for the infection prevention team, hospital leaders, clinical educators, nurse and physician managers, environmental services managers, all patient care staff, and patient/family advisors  
[https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/healthcare-associated-infections/news-and-events/newcourse\\_strive](https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/healthcare-associated-infections/news-and-events/newcourse_strive)
- Infectious Disease Control Manual: The Infectious Disease Control Manual (IDCM) is a project of the Ohio Department of Health State Bureau of Infectious Diseases created with the assistance of the Bureau of Health Services and the Bureau of Public Health Laboratories. It is designed to be a reference for local health departments, hospitals, laboratories, and physicians in providing information about infectious diseases from a public health perspective, including prevention, control, and reporting of suspected and diagnosed cases  
<https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/infectious-disease-control-manual/infectious-disease-control-manual>
- Avoiding Scams - COVID-19 Checklist: Scammers are trying to monopolize on the fear and uncertainty that COVID-19 has brought to so many  
<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/checklists/english-checklists/avoiding-scams-covid-19-checklist>
- Shelters and other congregate housing sites can use this checklist to ensure they are following COVID-19 precautions. The directions are clear and succinct  
<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/checklists/english-checklists/special-populations-shared-living-facilities-covid-19-checklist>
- Created a resource that discusses Ohio workplaces COVID-19 requirements for cloth masks or face coverings and addresses FAQs pertaining to the topic (i.e., proper way to wear, available

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 14. Resources Continued

face coverings, why to wear face coverings, and types of face coverings)

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/resources/general-resources/cloth-masks-or-face-coverings-in-the-workplace>

#### *Ohio Department of Health, Department of Veterans Services*

- Issued directive limiting nursing home visits, except in end of life cases  
[https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/OHOOD/2020/03/12/file\\_attachments/1398815/ODH%20Order%20on%20Nursing%20Homes.pdf](https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/OHOOD/2020/03/12/file_attachments/1398815/ODH%20Order%20on%20Nursing%20Homes.pdf)

#### *Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities*

- Created pre-surge planning toolkit for providers of long term services and supports (LTSS) that includes concept diagrams and tools related to COVID-19
- Provides resources to support evaluation and re-evaluation of needs and capacity to address future quarantines of people who have been exposed, isolation of people who are tested or presumed positive, and planning for critical shortages of personal protective equipment (PPE)  
<https://dodd.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/dodd/providers/all-provider-resources/resource-ltss-pre-surge-planning-toolkit>

#### *The Academy of Senior Health Sciences*

- A listing of various links/guides/educational resources regarding COVID-19 in relation to nursing home resident care  
<http://www.seniorhealthsciences.org/covid.shtml>

### **Oklahoma (OK)**

#### *Be a Neighbor Organization*

- Ready.Help.Go. is a volunteer readiness program to connect Oklahomans to volunteer opportunities in their communities  
<https://beaneighbor.ok.gov/s/volunteer-page>

#### *Care Providers of Oklahoma*

- Links to resources on developments, guidelines, protocols, policies, and tools for partners and providers  
<https://www.careoklahoma.com>

#### *LeadingAge of Oklahoma*

- Offers detailed provider updates four to five times a week
- Hosts daily conference calls with national association for provider updates
- Provides triage for provider concerns, such as personal protective equipment, staff, etc.  
<https://leadingageok.org>

#### *Oklahoma Assisted Living Association*

- Posts recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to prepare for COVID-19 in long term care facilities and nursing homes
- Provides additional interim guidance for infection prevention and control
- Hosts links to COVID-19 resources, such as a COVID-19 checklist, sample letters to families, volunteers and friends, and CDC and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services updates  
<https://www.okala.org>

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 14. Resources Continued

#### *Oklahoma Association for Home Care & Hospice*

- Hosts Oklahoma COVID-19 call center: (877)215-8336
- Offers resources for information, direction, and recommended health protocols based on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines  
<https://oahc.com>

#### *Oklahoma County Health Department*

- Oklahoma County Health Department implemented a Disaster Distress Helpline to answer calls and texts related to infectious disease outbreaks  
<https://www.occhd.org/resources>

#### *Oklahoma Hospice & Palliative Care Association*

- Home page includes COVID-19 resource links and training  
<https://ohpca.wildapricot.org>

#### *Oklahoma Mental Health and Aging Coalition*

- Offers website resources, educational materials, and videos for health care staff  
<http://omhac.org>

#### *Oklahoma Pharmacists Association*

- Offers technical assistance, education, and website resources (login required)  
<https://www.opha.com/resources>

#### *Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH)*

- OSDH uses the 2-1-1 Call Center to share the COVID-19 Symptom Tracker with the public and to release COVID-19 updates  
<https://coronavirus.health.ok.gov>
- OSDH has developed the Oklahoma COVID-19 Alert System. This tool offers the public and local elected officials an easy way to recognize each county's risk level  
<https://coronavirus.health.ok.gov/covid-19-alert-system>
- OSDH created a COVID-19 website created for additional notifications and resources
- Assistant Deputy Commissioner James Joslin, Service Director Mike Cook, and the Long Term Care Survey Division are holding weekly conference calls with providers and stakeholders
- OSDH created a website to track long term care facilities color coded by county and the county's alert status. This will enable the long term care facilities to monitor and align their reopening plans to the alert status  
<https://coronavirus.health.ok.gov>
- OSDH announced long term care grants available to long term care facilities to enhance infectious disease prevention and mitigation as part of the implementation of Oklahoma's plan for phased reopening in long term care facilities  
<https://coronavirus.health.ok.gov/ltc-cares-grant>

#### *Oklahoma Long-term Care Ombudsman*

- Provides aid and resources to residents and families during the COVID-19 crisis  
<http://www.okdhs.org/services/aging/Pages/ombudsman.aspx>

14. Resources Continued

*Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences*

- Updates Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO) to keep health care providers updated as the situation changes, including the state surge plan, extensive resources and tools and State of the State COVID-19 updates every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday  
<https://health.okstate.edu/echo/covid-19-project-echo.html>

**Oregon (OR)**

*Oregon Health Authority*

- In Oregon, there are many players working to support nursing homes and the greater Oregon health care community. State actions identified include:
  - Developed a toolkit for nursing homes  
<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/DISEASES/CONDITIONS/COMMUNICABLEDISEASE/HAI/Pages/Long-Term-Care-Facilities.aspx>
  - Has an excellent COVID-19 web page with resources  
<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/DISEASES/CONDITIONS/DISEASESAZ/Pages/COVID-19.aspx>

*Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU)*

- See the OHSU coronavirus (COVID-19) response website for current information about what OHSU is doing to collaborate with local public health authorities and health systems to contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus.  
<https://news.ohsu.edu/2020/09/11/preparing-for-the-novel-coronavirus-at-ohsu>
- Established a Connected Care Center that is available by phone to people throughout Oregon who are seeking information about caring for symptoms related to COVID-19  
<https://news.ohsu.edu/2020/04/22/ohsu-expands-covid-19-hotline-statewide>

**Pennsylvania (PA)**

*Pennsylvania Health Care Association*

- Nursing home association representing most nursing homes in Pennsylvania
- Developed long term care facilities preparedness assessment for COVID-19 (recommended to do before any cases identified in their facility) in checklist format for:
  - Visitor restrictions
  - Steps to conduct contact tracing for COVID-19 case
  - Procedure for contact tracing if case of positive test for COVID-19 is a staff person, along with form to document date of exposure, location, and notes
  - Developed three documents on Knowledge Center Reporting Resource Guides to assist nursing homes answer state requests for information (long term care capacity reference guide, long term care manually reporting capacity reference guide, and COVID-19 electronic export information data set long term care)
  - Contracted with Pennsylvania Patient Safety Organization to provide guided technical assistance

*Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority*

- Hosts overview, key data, and statistics on COVID-19 web page
- Offers educational tools and resources
- Maintains Twitter feed on COVID-19 alerts and issues

14. Resources Continued

[http://patientsafety.pa.gov/pst/Pages/COVID-19\\_Coronavirus/hm.aspx](http://patientsafety.pa.gov/pst/Pages/COVID-19_Coronavirus/hm.aspx)

**Rhode Island (RI)**

*CareLink, the RI Foundation*

- CareLink and the RI Foundation are sponsoring a new show, viewable on a TV, called “Room with a View,” to help reduce social isolation for older adults. This engaging TV show is designed just for older adults. It will include activities for mind, body, and spirit. The show is to bring the activities directly to patient and resident rooms  
<https://agefriendlyri.org/carelink-and-ri-foundation-partner-to-produce-evidence-based-tv-programming-for-older-adults>

*Rhode Island Department of Health*

- Completed modified infection control assessment and response (ICAR) at all high risk sites to prioritize support  
[https://hcaportal.org/portal/uploads/ICAR\\_BLANK.pdf](https://hcaportal.org/portal/uploads/ICAR_BLANK.pdf)
- Self-Symptom Checker assists individuals, including nursing home personnel, in determining if/when they should seek medical care, available in English, Spanish, and Portuguese  
<https://covidselfcheck.ri.gov/welcome>

*Rhode Island Office for Healthy Aging*

- Rhode Island stakeholders, including the Rhode Island Office of Healthy Aging and the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services, LeadingAge RI, the Rhode Island Health Care Association, and Rhode Island Assisted Living Association, put together a survey to learn about the technology needs of residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities so that they can apply for grant money  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdilhFZ-y91pdcnWaz4ag6zYO9KpeiZKOUWJPhUFombiqrkIQ/closedform>

**South Dakota (SD)**

*Neighborhoods at Brookview, Brookings, SD*

- Facility purchased two tandem wheelchair bicycles that allow residents to participate in bike riding and social engagements in a one-on-one or small-group setting, giving the residents a unique and innovative experience to enjoy the freedom of the outdoors. Each bicycle has a passenger seat at the front, while the cyclist sits behind the passenger. The passenger seat can be quickly released from the cyclist seat and used as a normal wheelchair if needed. Funding was provided through the innovation grant program from the South Dakota Department of Human Services Division of Long Term Care Services and Supports  
<https://www.dakotane.wsnews.com/content/news/Brookings-senior-living-center-purchases-tandem-wheelchair-bicycle-570922371.html>

*South Dakota Department of Health (SD DOH), South Dakota Association of Healthcare Organizations (SDAHO), South Dakota Health Care Association (SDHCA)*

- All 104 South Dakota nursing home facilities received four iPads to provide an increased opportunity for residents to communicate with family and friends and connect to social media and the internet. Additionally, the iPads can be used in telehealth visits. The South Dakota Department of Health, South Dakota Association of Healthcare Organizations, and the South Dakota Health Care Association partnered in securing Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 14. Resources Continued

(CMS) funding for the project

<https://sdaho.org/2020/05/21/south-dakota-nursing-homes-receive-ipads>

#### *South Dakota State Entities*

- March 2020 - Assisted every nursing home with infection control assessment and called every nursing home
- Called all nursing homes and assisted living centers week of April 13, 2020 to see how they were doing, what their needs were, and to answer questions
- South Dakota is first state with a hydroxychloroquine statewide clinical trial to help fight COVID-19  
<https://news.sd.gov/newsitem.aspx?id=26644>

#### *Tieszan Memorial Home*

- Tieszan Memorial Home used its social media page to inform community and resident's families about COVID 19 mass testing. The intent was for families and residents' representatives to have an opportunity to read the information prior to the personal call to obtain consent for the testing. This provided time for representatives to gather any questions they might have, ultimately contributing to a quicker process in obtaining consents

#### *Walworth County Care Center - Selby, SD*

- Walworth County Care Center is among several nursing homes in South Dakota where staff are "dancing in the halls" to bring joy and music to residents
- Both residents and staff look forward to the activity and bringing some silliness, fun, and laughter to the day  
<http://tinyurl.com/y726xvyh>

### **Tennessee (TN)**

#### *Tennessee Department of Health (TDOH), Tennessee COVID-19 Unified-Command*

- On September 17, 2020, TDOH and Tennessee COVID-19 Unified-Command announced three new initiatives, including expanded visitation options, enhanced resident interactions, and a new Tennessee COVID-19 Long Term Care Task Force  
<https://www.tn.gov/health/news/2020/9/17/tennessee-launches-new-initiatives-for-long-term-care-facility-residents.html>

#### *Tennessee Health Care Association (THCA)*

- Published resources for consumers  
<https://www.thca.org/for-consumers/resource-center>
- Created guidance for facilities facing personal protective equipment shortages  
<https://www.thca.org/for-consumers/resource-center>
- Posted toolkit for facility visitor screening  
<https://www.thca.org/files/2020/03/FHCA-COVID-19-Visitor-Screening-Toolkit.pdf>

### **Texas (TX)**

#### *Office of the Governor Greg Abbott, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center*

- Released a new Spanish-language public service announcement (PSA) on how Texans can protect themselves and others from COVID-19  
<https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/office-of-the-governor-ut-southwestern-medical-center-release-new-spanish-language-covid-19-psa>

14. Resources Continued

*Texas Health and Human Services Commission, Department of State Health Services*

- Provide targeted online resources for nursing facilities, including webinars, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) resources, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) resources, Occupational Safety and Health Administration guidance, mental health support lines for Texans, and provider letters

*Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) Long-Term Care Regulatory Division (LTCR)*

- The Texas HHSC posted slides from a September 2, 2020, presentation that is loaded with helpful information for Texas nursing homes. The information is inclusive of: government text alerts, online training, N-95 mask availability, Relief Fund information, Doctors Without Borders assistance, testing, and more  
<https://hhs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/doing-business-with-hhs/providers/long-term-care/nf/nf-covid-updates-qa-webinar-sept-2-2020.pdf>

**Utah (UT)**

*Alzheimer's Association*

- Provided guidance on managing patients with dementia as these patients can be difficult in complying with safety guidelines, such as maintaining a safe distance

*Utah Coronavirus Task Force*

- The Facebook page, "The State of Utah's COVID-19," posted new videos covering the following topics: quarantine, quarantine vs. isolation, staying home after testing, and protecting higher risk individuals. The page provides regular updates and information resources from the task force, led by Lt. Governor Spencer Cox  
<https://www.facebook.com/utahcoronavirus/photos/a.118780509742021/171252414494830/>

*Utah Department of Health*

- The state of Utah has modified its Provider Order for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) form, waiving the requirement of in-person signing of documents and using national tools and guidance to ensure providers are prepared for end of life discussions and processes  
[https://health.utah.gov/hflcra/forms/POLST/POLSTStatic\\_Revised2-16.pdf](https://health.utah.gov/hflcra/forms/POLST/POLSTStatic_Revised2-16.pdf)

**Vermont (VT)**

*Vermont State Department of Health*

- Modified infection control assessment and response (ICAR) programs in all facilities to prioritize support
- A COVID-19 hotline is available for providers to call with questions about screening patients for testing  
<https://www.healthvermont.gov/response/coronavirus-covid-19/long-term-care-and-group-living-settings>

**Virginia (VA)**

*Virginia Department of Health (VDH)*

- Virginia Project ECHO is offering a Just-in-Time COVID-19 Learning Series, covering testing, telehealth, personal protective equipment (PPE), isolation, cohorting, medical management, and vulnerable populations

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 14. Resources Continued

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/project-echo/>

- Through the Virginia's Governor COVID-19 Long Term Care (LTC) Task Force, an LTC Facility Playbook to Access Resources to Support COVID-19 Outbreak Response was created. The playbook serves as a resource for how to access various staffing, supplies, infection control expertise, and other resources to support response to COVID-19 outbreaks  
<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/182/2020/05/VirginiaLongTermCareFacilityTaskForceCOVIDPlaybook.pdf>

#### *Virginia Department of Health (VDH), Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association (VHHA)*

- VHHA and VDH are partnering to allocate support and resources to long term care facilities in Virginia. The initiative is facilitated through the Virginia Healthcare Emergency Management Program (VHEMP) and Russell Phillips and Associates (RPA). Facilities will receive infection prevention and control education and training related to personal protective equipment (PPE), testing, clinical practice, and staff support  
<https://www.vhha.com/communications/vhha-and-vdh-partner-to-support-long-term-care-facilities-during-covid-19>

#### *Virginia Hospital Alerting & Status System (VHASS)*

- VHASS, an emergency management partnership between the Virginia Department of Health and the Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association, created an online COVID-19 resource center and Virginia COVID-19 surveillance data
- A long term care VHASS daily situation report, posted daily, includes the number of nursing home residents with reported/confirmed COVID-19, number of residents pending confirmation, and current personal protective equipment (PPE) needs in nursing homes
- Regional health care coalitions are the point of contact for skilled nursing facilities, dialysis centers, and hospitals that need PPE  
<https://vhass.org/regional-info>

## **Washington (WA)**

### *Nursing Homes*

- Nursing homes have distributed iPads and laptops to residents to facilitate virtual communication and visits with families
- Nursing homes have provided end of life and advance care planning education for all staff, using national tools and guidance to ensure providers are prepared for end of life discussions and processes
- Infection preventionists from the local public health districts and state departments of health are providing consultation to nursing homes

#### *Office of the Governor Jay Inslee, Washington State Department of Health*

- Governor Jay Inslee has set out a four-phase process for lifting restrictions in the state of Washington, with several available resources for businesses, including:
  - Back to the workplace presentation for unit leaders
  - COVID-19 Safety Training: Back to the Workplace
  - Signage, posters, and graphics
  - Guide to face coverings, masks, and other personal protective equipment (PPE)
  - Campus reopening guide



## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 14. Resources Continued

<https://www.washington.edu/coronavirus/work-task-force/>

- Governor Jay Inslee and state public health leaders developed an online COVID-19 risk assessment dashboard to help make determinations about whether it is safe for a county to enter a new phase of reopening

<https://coronavirus.wa.gov/what-you-need-know/covid-19-risk-assessment-dashboard>

#### *Snohomish County Department of Human Services*

- The department announced the creation of the community COVID-19 outreach counselors' program to provide emotional support services to residents of Snohomish County whose mental health has been impacted by COVID-19

<https://snohomishcountywa.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=1955>

#### *Washington State Counties*

- Washington state residents can call a toll-free number or text "coronavirus" to a designated number and receive the most current information on COVID-19 including county-level updates and resources for families, businesses, students and more

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>

#### **West Virginia (WV)**

##### *West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources*

- Launched "WV's Emotional StrengthLine: Help304," a hotline providing healthcare workers social, emotional, and supportive counseling via call, text or chat. The hotline's crisis counselors provide information on stress management, COVID-19 testing, food pantries, and more

<https://www.help304.com/covid-stress/healthcare-workers>

##### *West Virginia Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Public Health*

- Developed a COVID-19 website
  - <https://dhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx>
  - Outlines provider responsibility for reporting requirements for suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19
  - Offers general information on West Virginia resources:
    - Resuming elective surgeries
    - Medical transport guidelines
    - Emergency department recommendations
    - Long term care (LTC) guidelines
    - Homeless service providers
    - Criteria and resources for specimen collection and testing specific to West Virginia
    - Death reporting guidelines for COVID-19
- Includes long term care (LTC) facility outbreak resources:
  - Guidelines for COVID-19 outbreaks in LTC facilities:
    - Contact precautions
    - Hand hygiene observation tool
    - Long term care facility outbreak resources toolkit
    - Home care resources:
      - Home care and self-isolation guidance for people with suspected or confirmed COVID-19

14. Resources Continued

- Guidance on cleaning when caring for ill person in the home

*West Virginia Health Care Association, West Virginia Department of Health and Human Services Bureau for Public Health Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology*

- Developed guidelines for COVID-19 outbreaks in long term care facilities  
<https://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx>
- Covers following topics:
  - Outbreak definitions
  - Preventing an outbreak
  - What to do if case detected
  - Measures to control outbreak
  - Lab testing
  - Health care personnel exposure
  - Management of residents returning from hospitalization or new admissions
  - Criteria to remove residents from isolation
  - Criteria for returning to work for exposed health care workers
  - Environmental cleaning and disinfection
  - Implement environmental infection control
  - Employee screening tool
  - Visitor screening tool
  - Nursing facility transfer

**Wisconsin (WI)**

*LeadingAge*

- Sends daily email for members and business partners highlighting practical tools for staff conversations
- Focus on staff morale and facilitating challenging conversations and a motivational quote called “Thought for the Day,” in addition to sharing many resources and training opportunities

*LeadingAge and LeadingChoice Network*

- Released policy, FAQ, and audit tools for conducting outdoor visits safely, among several other topics. Upon clicking the link, scroll down to the nursing home heading  
<https://leadingagewi.org/members-subscribers/coronavirus-covid-19-information-resources>

*Wisconsin Department of Health Services*

- The Wisconsin Department of Health Services has a webpage of COVID-19 guidance for Wisconsin nursing homes inclusive of patient care, staffing, testing, infection control, visitation, and more  
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/nursing-homes.htm>
- Shared resources specific to memory care individuals and ways to keep residents engaged, such as through the use of technology  
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/ltc.htm>
- Shared resources to support skilled nursing facilities in determining admission policies during a COVID-19 outbreak  
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/dph/memos/communicable-diseases/snf-considerations-admissions-during-outbreak.pdf>

*State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response*

*14. Resources Continued*

*Stop the COVID Spread! Coalition*

- "Stop the COVID Spread!" is a coalition of Wisconsin's leading health care, business, and advocacy organizations along with prominent individuals who have joined together to urge the public to take preventative measures seriously so that community members can all continue to safely participate in Wisconsin's economy  
<https://www.waha.org/stopthecovidspread>

**Wyoming (WY)**

*Wyoming Department of Health Regional Long Term Care Ombudsman*

- Proposed to use civil penalties monies to purchase iPads for nursing homes' statewide use for residents to keep in contact with families and loves ones
- Wyoming Department of Health contact person is Lee Alter at [lee.alter@wyogov.com](mailto:lee.alter@wyogov.com)

*Wyoming Community Protection Initiative Team*

- Community Protection Initiative team will support the Wyoming Department of Health with the following:
  - Data systems and data analysis
  - Prevention, infection control, and containment of infections in long term care facilities and psychiatric facilities
  - Community mitigation and infection prevention and control among tribal communities
  - Case identification and contact tracing<https://health.wyo.gov/cdc-team-deployed-to-wyoming-to-supplement-existing-efforts>

*Wyoming Office of the First Lady Jennie Gordon, Wyoming Department of Health Aging Division*

- Collaborating to send cards, letters, and notes to residents of skilled nursing facilities and senior centers
- First Lady Jennie Gordon produced a video explaining the concept  
<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=519102808788094>

## 15. SCREENING/VISITORS

### Alabama (AL)

#### Alabama Nursing Home Association (ANHA)

- The ANHA developed materials to assist facilities with facilitating indoor visitation in accord with Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services September 2020 guidance <http://www.anha.org/uploads/ANHAIndoorVisitationGuidance.pdf>

#### Office of the Governor Kay Ivey

- Governor Kay Ivey and State Health Officer Dr. Scott Harris issued an amended state health order, effective October 2, 2020, that allows for limited indoor visitation in hospitals and nursing homes in alignment with guidelines issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services <https://governor.alabama.gov/assets/2020/09/Safer-at-Home-Order-Final-9.29.2020.pdf>

### Arizona (AZ)

#### Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS)

- ADHS approved new guidelines regarding visitation in congregate settings, including nursing homes. The guidelines were proposed by the Governor's Task Force for Long-Term Care and cover the thresholds for community spread of COVID-19 and facility implementation of mitigation strategies. Community spread thresholds set visitation requirements based on COVID-19 cases, COVID-19-like illness and the percentage of positive COVID-19 tests. The guidance calls for facilities to allow compassionate care visits regardless of the level of community spread. Mitigation strategies require visitors to present a negative COVID-19 test less than 48 hours old; attestations regarding isolation after testing; limited contact time and dedicated visitation space; mask-wearing requirements for residents (when safe), visitors, and staff; hand sanitizing requirements; visitor logs to facilitate contact tracing; and enhanced facility cleaning and sanitation <https://www.azdhs.gov/documents/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/infectious-disease-epidemiology/novel-coronavirus/community/congregate-visitation.pdf>

#### Maricopa County Department of Public Health

- Created a nursing home visitation reference that combines guidance from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Arizona Department of Health Services. The guidance notes key differences between the two sources and identifies situations when CMS guidance is more stringent. The document also describes what types of visitation are permitted based on COVID-19 community spread, facility policies, communication, and mitigation measures [https://www.maricopa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/63758/LTCF-Visitation-Guidance\\_CMS\\_FINAL\\_109](https://www.maricopa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/63758/LTCF-Visitation-Guidance_CMS_FINAL_109)

#### Office of the Governor Doug Ducey

- Governor Doug Ducey established the Task Force on Long Term Care, which is focused on safely resuming visitation within long term care facilities. The task force includes public health officials, medical experts, senior advocates, private sector leaders, legislators, and families. The task force will develop recommendations and metrics for how and when in-person visitation can safely resume at long term care and assisted living facilities. The task force will also recommend how

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 15. Screening and Visitors Continued

to best keep families informed about their loved ones

<https://azgovernor.gov/governor/news/2020/07/governor-ducey-announces-task-force-long-term-care>

#### Arkansas (AR)

##### *Greenhurst Nursing Center*

- Facility has been highlighted in the news and social media for its “visiting station”  
<https://www.5news.com/article/news/health/coronavirus/greenhurst-living-center-made-visiting-stations-for-residents/527-5ca4dd04-da93-4701-9af3-4fb594cdef06>

#### California (CA)

##### *California Department of Health*

- The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) issued an All Facilities Letter (AFL) on October 23, 2020 providing updated guidance relative to visitation in long term care facilities. The AFL updated CDPH's visitation guidance to align with CMS QSO-20-39-NH, which was distributed to all nursing homes on September 17, 2020. Indoor and outdoor visitation guidelines were updated, including guidance for visitation in the green zone  
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/AFL-20-22.aspx>
- The California Department of Public Health All Facilities Letter (AFL) provides resources and guidance for skilled nursing facilities on preparing for COVID-19 and a toolkit for management of exposures and recognized cases in skilled nursing facilities titled, “Preparing for COVID-19 in California Skilled Nursing Facilities”  
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/CDPH%20Document%20Library/AFL-20-25-Attachment-01-SNF-Checklist.pdf>
- The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) distributed All Facilities Letter (AFL) 20-77 to notify nursing homes about the availability of a new federal civil money penalty grant opportunity for facilities to purchase materials that aid with in-person visitation. Up to \$3,000 is available for tents, clear partitions, and installation costs. The AFL provided the link to the fillable, electronic template application and instructions on submitting the request  
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/AFL-20-77.aspx>

#### Florida (FL)

##### *Advent Health Care Center Orlando North*

- The Advent Health Care Center Orlando North has implemented a successful visitation program for family members. As part of the program, visitors receive a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention video prior to the visit to ensure understanding and expectations during the visit

##### *Florida Agency for Health Care Administration*

- Early decisive action for visitor, staff, and vendor screening
- Imposed statewide visitor restriction at all long term care facilities
- Issued emergency orders  
[http://ahca.myflorida.com/docs/DEM\\_ORDER\\_NO.20-006\\_In\\_re\\_COVID-19\\_Public\\_Health\\_Emergency\\_Issued\\_March\\_15\\_2020.pdf](http://ahca.myflorida.com/docs/DEM_ORDER_NO.20-006_In_re_COVID-19_Public_Health_Emergency_Issued_March_15_2020.pdf)
- Shared Florida Health Care Association tool kit with screening resources  
[https://www.fhca.org/facility\\_operations/coronavirus](https://www.fhca.org/facility_operations/coronavirus)

## Georgia (GA)

Office of the Governor Brian P. Kemp

- Issued guidance, in consultation with Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in nursing homes to include symptom screening for visitors, staff, and residents, and separate staffing teams, facilities, and units for COVID-19 positive/unknown and COVID-19 negative residents  
<https://gov.georgia.gov/press-releases/2020-04-03/gov-kemp-provides-overview-federal-guidance-mitigate-covid-19-nursing>

Georgia Department of Community Health

- On September 21, 2020, the Georgia Department of Community Health issued a revised Administrative Order outlining long term care facility reopening guidance. Topics covered in the order include:
  - Recommendations for progression through phases
  - Critical components of infection prevention and control
  - Considerations to identify pandemic phase and recommended mitigation steps
  - Testing requirements and guidance
  - Guidance for time outdoors, window visits, and outdoor visits
  - Considerations for assisted living communities
  - Considerations for memory care units
  - Reporting to the National Healthcare Safety Network  
<https://dch.georgia.gov/announcement/2020-09-21/dph-issues-revised-guidance-allow-safe-visitation-georgias-long-term-care>

## Hawaii (HI)

Office of the Governor David Ige

- Directed residents not to visit nursing homes  
<https://governor.hawaii.gov/newsroom/latest-news/proper-use-of-covid-19-tests-imperative-there-is-a-current-shortage-of-hand-sanitizers-and-toilet-paper-in-hawaii-in-part-because-of-the-publics-over-reaction-to-covid-19-the-hawai>

## Illinois (IL)

Illinois Department of Public Health

- Issued COVID-19 safety guidance for nursing home patients and employees (e.g., screening and reporting symptoms), as well as visitation restrictions on March 20, 2020  
<http://www.dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/diseases-a-z-list/coronavirus/long-term-care-guidance>

## Indiana (IN)

Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH)

- ISDH restricted temporary leaves of absence for non-essential services
- ISDH requires long term care facilities to screen all persons entering facilities  
[https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN\\_COVID-19\\_LTC\\_04.29.20.pdf](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19_LTC_04.29.20.pdf)
- ISDH allows visitation (including family) for end of life situations  
[https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN\\_COVID-19%20end%20of%20life%204.17.20.pdf](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19%20end%20of%20life%204.17.20.pdf)
- The Long Term Care Facility Outdoor Visitation Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ), released June

15. Screening and Visitors Continued

5, 2020, contains frequently asked questions regarding the guidance released on June 3, 2020 regarding outdoor visitation

[https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/Outdoor%20Visitation%20FAQ\\_6.5.20.pdf](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/Outdoor%20Visitation%20FAQ_6.5.20.pdf)

- ISDH released an update on June 5, 2020 to Essential Family Caregivers in Long Term Care Facilities
  - Recognizing the critical role family members and other outside caregivers (e.g., friends, volunteers and private personal caregivers) often have in the care and support of residents, it is recommended that long term care facilities (LTCFs) consider designating as Essential Family Caregivers (EFCs) those family members and other outside caregivers who, prior to visitor restrictions, were regularly engaged with the resident at least two or more times per week to provide companionship and/or assist with activities requiring one-on-one direction
  - The goal of EFCs is to help high risk residents who are missing care previously provided by a loved one or outside caregiver
- [https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN\\_COVID-19%20EFCs%206.5.20.pdf](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19%20EFCs%206.5.20.pdf)
- ISDH updated Visitation Guidance requiring all nursing homes to offer outdoor visits and permit indoor visits effective July 4, 2020, unless there has been a new-onset COVID-19 case in the past 14 days
- [https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN\\_COVID-19%20Back%20On%20Track%20Guidelines%206.29.20.pdf](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19%20Back%20On%20Track%20Guidelines%206.29.20.pdf)
- ISDH updated its long term care facilities visitation guidelines to require that facilities must offer at least four hours of visitation daily, including evening and weekend hours, unless the facility is under visitor restrictions due to a new-onset COVID-19 case. The four hours may be a mixture of outdoor and indoor visitation, unless weather prevents outdoor visitation
- [https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN\\_COVID-19%20Back%20On%20Track%20Guidelines%207.20.20.pdf](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19%20Back%20On%20Track%20Guidelines%207.20.20.pdf)
- ISDH updated the COVID-19 website to include guidance from the September 17, 2020, CMS memorandum on nursing home visitation
- [https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN\\_COVID-19%20Back%20On%20Track%20Guidelines%207.23.20.pdf](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19%20Back%20On%20Track%20Guidelines%207.23.20.pdf)
- On October 19, 2020, ISDH updated its webpage with guidelines related to staff screening and adhering to the CDC's Return to Work Criteria.
  - Staff Screening: Continue staff screening and temperature checks at the start of each shift and do not permit entry if any symptoms of COVID-19 are present.
  - Return to Work Criteria: LTC facilities with active COVID-19 cases can continue to employ asymptomatic COVID-positive staff in COVID-dedicated units within the facility. Asymptomatic COVID-positive staff working in a facility without a COVID-19 unit should stay off duty for a minimum of 10 days and 24-hours fever free (without use of fever-reducing medications), and show improvement in other symptoms before returning to work
- [https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN\\_COVID-19%20Back%20On%20Track%20Guidelines%2010.19.20.pdf](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19%20Back%20On%20Track%20Guidelines%2010.19.20.pdf)
- Dated October 20, 2020, ISDH released a screening tool template for nursing homes to use in screening visitors prior to allowing them in the facility
- <https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/Visitor%20Screening%20form%20for%20COVID-19%2010-20-20.pdf>

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 15. Screening and Visitors Continued

#### Iowa (IA)

Office of the Governor Kim Reynolds

- Ordered health care facilities to screen staff for COVID-19 symptoms  
<https://governor.iowa.gov/press-release/gov-reynolds-signs-new-proclamation-continuing-state-public-health-emergency-2>

#### Kentucky (KY)

Office of the Governor Andy Beshear

- On October 26, 2020, Governor Andy Beshear reported 953 COVID-19 cases in Kentucky and issued new red zone reduction recommendations to stop COVID-19 spread and protect Kentuckians in the 55 counties currently in the red zone. Hospitalizations and deaths are also increasing nationally and in Kentucky. New red zone recommendations provide direction on how communities can come together to defeat COVID-19. Red zone counties are those with 25 or more average daily cases of COVID-19 per 100,000 residents. Red zone counties are updated daily on the incidence rate map on the [kycovid19.ky.gov](http://kycovid19.ky.gov) web page
- The Governor said when a county turns red, we are already asking schools to go virtual, we ask for sports to pause and we restrict visitation in long term care facilities
- Red Zone Reduction Recommendations:
  - Employers should allow employees to work from home when possible
  - Government offices that do not provide critical services need to operate virtually
  - Reduce in-person shopping; order online or pickup curbside as much as possible
  - Order take-out; avoid dining in restaurants or bars
  - Prioritize businesses that follow and enforce the mask mandate and other guidelines
  - Reschedule, postpone, or cancel public events
  - Do not host or attend gatherings of any size
  - Avoid non-essential activities outside your home
  - Reduce overall activity and contacts, and follow existing guidance  
<https://chfs.ky.gov/News/Documents/nrredzonerecommendations.pdf>

#### Maine (ME)

The Lincoln Home, Newcastle, Maine

- The Lincoln Home's porch in Newcastle has been transformed to serve as a safe place for family visitation. The home divided the screened porch in half with Plexiglass to allow family to enter their part of the porch from the outside and residents enter from the inside  
[https://www.mehca.org/files/QualityRegs/MHCA\\_COVID\\_Update\\_InnovationCorner\\_Frontline\\_Warmline\\_ResOutApptsQuar\\_NewABNForm\\_CMSReleasesFAQVisitations\\_062520.pdf](https://www.mehca.org/files/QualityRegs/MHCA_COVID_Update_InnovationCorner_Frontline_Warmline_ResOutApptsQuar_NewABNForm_CMSReleasesFAQVisitations_062520.pdf)

#### Michigan (MI)

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)

- MDHHS maintains a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document, regarding visitation, to support facilities in their implementation of MDHHS Emergency Order Under MCL 333.2253  
[https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/MDHHS\\_LTCF\\_COVID19\\_Visitation\\_FAQs\\_v3\\_10\\_30.20\\_706642\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/MDHHS_LTCF_COVID19_Visitation_FAQs_v3_10_30.20_706642_7.pdf)

Michigan State University

- Using information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World



15. Screening and Visitors Continued

Health Organization (WHO), Sophia Tessema and a group of community advocates developed a web-based questionnaire to self-screen for COVID-19

<https://www.covidscreening.org>

<http://humanmedicine.msu.edu/News/2020/04.13.20-Online-Screening-Tool.htm>

**Minnesota (MN)**

*LeadingAge Minnesota*

- Designed Visitation Decision Making Grid to help providers make decisions about what type of visitations they can offer and in what circumstance  
<https://www.leadingagemn.org/assets/docs/C19-VisitationDecisionMakingGrid-071720a.pdf>
- Developed Essential Caregiver Toolkit. The Minnesota Department of Health issued guidance that allows designating an essential caregiver for residents of nursing homes and assisted living. This guidance is a recommendation, not a mandate or requirement. The toolkit is designed to help develop and implement Essential Caregivers in the nursing home or assisted living setting, and communicate whether the setting will proceed with or delay implementing this new designation  
<https://www.leadingagemn.org/assets/docs/C19-EssentialCaregiverCover-072120a.pdf>

*Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)*

- On October 2020, posted updated documents to the website related to visitation and activity restrictions and essential caregiver guidance. The documents were updated to reflect key revisions that align more closely with CMS guidance and best practices. Revisions include:
  - Facilities must have had no new onset COVID-19 cases in the last 14 (versus 28) days
  - Health care workers, who are not employees but provide direct care to residents, can enter the facility subject to screening protocols.
  - Facilities in medium- or high-positivity counties are encouraged to test visitors
  - Expanding the definition of “compassionate care” is expanded to include “essential caregivers”  
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/nhvisit.pdf>  
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/lccaregiver.pdf>
- Developed Recommendations for Long-term Care (LTC) Visitation and Activities: How and When to Safely Transition to the Next Level Throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic. The document provides guidance to LTC facilities about how and when to ease limitations on visits and activities based on risk. Level one is the most restrictive; and level two eases restrictions for facilities successfully preventing and controlling infections  
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/lcvisitsum.pdf>
- Temporarily banned all visitors to nursing homes; exceptions made for family members under special circumstances, such as critically ill or end of life patients and parents of minor children
- Implemented enhanced respiratory surveillance in long term care facilities to rapidly identify any potential outbreaks of COVID-19 – March 17, 2020 (Department of Health Order)
- MDH Engineering Section developed guidelines for temporary tent structures and clear dividers for in-person long term care visits  
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/lcvisittent.pdf>

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 15. Screening and Visitors Continued

#### Missouri (MO)

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS)

- Missouri DHSS issued guidance for long term care facilities to establish essential caregiver programs and allow visits  
<https://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/novel-coronavirus/pdf/visitation-guidance.pdf>

#### Montana (MT)

Office of the Governor Steve Bullock

- Issued restrictions to suspend visitation for all visitors and non-essential health care providers, except as for certain compassionate care situations (e.g., end of life)  
[http://governor.mt.gov/Portals/16/2020-03-15\\_Governor\\_Directive\\_re\\_COVID-19.pdf](http://governor.mt.gov/Portals/16/2020-03-15_Governor_Directive_re_COVID-19.pdf)

#### New York (NY)

Hebrew Home, Riverdale, New York

- Hebrew Home implemented an innovative drive-in visit protocol for families to visit residents who are COVID-19 negative  
<https://www.riverspringhealth.org/drive-in-visits>

New York State Department of Health

- Newly launched mobile contact tracing app, *COVID Alert NY*, is a voluntary, anonymous, exposure-notification smartphone app. The app will send a user an alert if they were in close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19. Knowing about a potential exposure allows an individual to self-quarantine immediately, get tested, and reduce the potential exposure risk to family, friends, neighbors, co-workers and others. The free mobile app is available to anyone 18 or older who lives, works, or attends college in New York or New Jersey. It is available for download from the Google Play Store or Apple App Store. *COVID Alert NY* is available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Bengali, Korean, Russian and Haitian Creole  
<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-alert-ny>

Office of the Governor Andrew Cuomo, New York State Department of Health

- Due to a statutory change which the Legislature approved at the beginning of March, Governor Cuomo can change or suspend laws unilaterally, so long as doing so assists the state in its disaster response
- With respect to nursing homes:
  - The requirements for assessing patients entering long term care have been relaxed. So have the requirements for screening patients entering nursing homes
  - A regulation requiring patients entering nursing homes to have gotten approval from a physician first is no longer effective, and initial patient visits with individuals receiving home care no longer need to occur immediately  
<https://www.politico.com/states/new-york/albany/story/2020/03/19/every-law-and-regulation-suspended-by-cuomo-during-the-coronavirus-crisis-1268180>
  - Mandated nursing homes not allow visitors due to the coronavirus pandemic  
<https://news.wbfo.org/post/new-york-state-mandates-nursing-homes-ban-visitors-due-coronavirus>

15. Screening and Visitors Continued

**North Carolina (NC)**

*North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS), Office of the Governor Roy Cooper*

- On September 28, 2020, the NCDHHS updated guidance to allow indoor visitation in nursing homes that have gone 14 days without a COVID-19 case and in counties with a COVID-19 positive test rate of 10 percent or less

<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/news/press-releases/ncdhhs-updates-nursing-home-visitation-order-state-has-stabilizing-metrics>

- The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services is working directly with the Governor's COVID-19 task force to coordinate preparation and response to the pandemic
- Governor Cooper has signed a series of Executive Orders, beginning March 10, 2020  
[https://files.nc.gov/governor/documents/files/200327\\_FAQ-SAH-Order\\_FINAL.pdf](https://files.nc.gov/governor/documents/files/200327_FAQ-SAH-Order_FINAL.pdf)
- No. 131 on April 9, 2020, addressed even more restrictions for nursing homes
- During the three-phase re-opening plan, nursing homes are to remain restricted to visitors through phase 1, 2, and 3  
<https://files.nc.gov/governor/documents/files/NC-3-PHASE-PLAN.pdf>
- On July 16, 2020, updated guidance for Visitation, Communal Dining and Indoor Activities for Larger Residential Settings (Adult Care Homes, Behavioral Health/IDD, Intermediate Care Facilities, Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities)  
<https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/guidance/Guidance-on-Outdoor-Visitation-for-Larger-Residential-Settings.pdf>

*Office of the Governor Roy Cooper*

- North Carolina moved into Phase 2.5 on Sept 4, 2020. Allowable mass gatherings increased to 25 people indoors and 50 people outdoors. Masks are now mandatory for people ages five and up  
<https://governor.nc.gov/news/north-carolina-move-phase-25>

**Ohio (OH)**

*Ohio Department of Health, Department of Veterans Services*

- Issued directive limiting nursing home visits, except in end of life cases  
[https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/OHOOD/2020/03/12/file\\_attachments/1398815/ODH%20Order%20on%20Nursing%20Homes.pdf](https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/OHOOD/2020/03/12/file_attachments/1398815/ODH%20Order%20on%20Nursing%20Homes.pdf)

*Ohio Department of Health*

- Screening Employees for COVID-19: COVID-19 Information for Employers and Employees  
<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/resources/general-resources/Screening-Employees-for-COVID-19>

**Oklahoma (OK)**

*Governor's COVID-19 Solution Task Force and Response Team*

- Transformed Oklahoma's 2-1-1 hotline into a tool for Oklahomans to call and receive screening support for COVID-19  
<https://coronavirus.health.ok.gov/governors-actions>

*Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH)*

- See the OSDH webpage pertaining to long term care COVID-19 resources. The site covers a wide variety of information for providers as well as residents and visitors.

15. Screening and Visitors Continued

[https://www.ok.gov/health/Protective\\_Health/Long\\_Term\\_Care\\_Service/LTC\\_COVID-19\\_Resources/index.html](https://www.ok.gov/health/Protective_Health/Long_Term_Care_Service/LTC_COVID-19_Resources/index.html)

**Pennsylvania (PA)**

Pennsylvania Department of Health

- Pennsylvania Department of Health released updated guidance on July 20, 2020 for skilled nursing facilities during COVID 19. The Commonwealth developed a three-step process for reopening, in consultation with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services guidelines on reopening nursing homes  
<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Guidance/SNF-Guidance.aspx>
- On September 3, 2020, the Pennsylvania Department of Health provided updated COVID-19 guidance to all skilled nursing facilities. The updates cover screening recommendations, safe access for compassionate care, resident advocate facility access, and timeline for lifting mitigation restrictions and recommended testing intervals in accordance with community spread  
<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Guidance/SNF-Guidance.aspx>

*Pennsylvania Health Care Association (PHCA)*

- Nursing home association representing most nursing homes in Pennsylvania  
<https://www.phca.org/covid19>
- Developed long term care facilities preparedness assessment for COVID-19 (recommended to complete before any cases identified in their facility) in checklist format for:
  - Education, monitoring, and screening of all residents
  - Document active screening of residents every 12 hours for COVID-19 symptoms
  - Screen staff prior to shift for symptoms of COVID-19

**South Carolina (SC)**

*South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC)*

- On September 1, 2020, DHEC released guidelines for limited outdoor visitation in nursing homes and community residential care facilities. These guidelines are based on the most recent Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) guidance for reopening nursing homes, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance for COVID-19 in nursing homes, and CMS long-term care facility testing requirements  
<https://www.scdhec.gov/news-releases/dhec-provides-new-guidelines-limited-outdoor-visitation-nursing-homes-assisted-living>

**South Dakota (SD)**

*Avera Prince of Peace Retirement Community*

- Avera Prince of Peace Retirement Community created a visitation booth that separates residents from their visitors by a piece of plexiglass. Family members can contact the nursing home to reserve a time for the booth  
<https://www.dakotanewsnow.com/content/news/Avera-Prince-of-Peace-Retirement-Community-opens-visitation-booth-571012061.html>

**Tennessee (TN)**

*Tennessee Department of Health (TDOH), Tennessee COVID-19 Unified-Command*

- On September 17, 2020, TDOH and Tennessee COVID-19 Unified-Command announced three

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 15. Screening and Visitors Continued

new initiatives, including expanded visitation options, enhanced resident interactions, and a new Tennessee COVID-19 Long Term Care Task Force

<https://www.tn.gov/health/news/2020/9/17/tennessee-launches-new-initiatives-for-long-term-care-facility-residents.html>

#### *Tennessee Health Care Association (THCA)*

- Posted toolkit for facility visitor screening  
<https://www.thca.org/files/2020/03/FHCA-COVID-19-Visitor-Screening-Toolkit.pdf>

## **Texas (TX)**

### *State of Texas*

- All licensed long term care facilities must screen all individuals entering the facility, including staff and newly admitted residents
- Based on federal guidance, Texas restricts non-essential visitors to nursing homes and encourages the use of alternate means of communication between residents and family members and friends

#### *Texas Department of Health and Human Services*

- On August 6, 2020 the Texas Health and Human Services Commission announced limited visitation at nursing facilities and long term care facilities. For the health and safety of residents and staff, public visitation is limited to outdoor visits only. Physical contact between residents and visitors is not permitted  
<https://hhs.texas.gov/about-hhs/communications-events/news/2020/08/hhsc-allow-limited-visitation-nursing-facilities-long-term-care-facilities>
- Emergency Rule Enhancements for nursing facilities include that all nursing facilities must screen all residents, staff, and people who come to the facility in accordance with specified criteria, and each resident must be screened at least three times a day for signs or symptoms of COVID-19  
<https://hhs.texas.gov/about-hhs/communications-events/news/2020/08/hhsc-allow-limited-visitation-nursing-facilities-long-term-care-facilities>

#### *Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)*

- On September 24, 2020, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission expanded visitation guidelines for eligible nursing, assisted living, and intermediate care facilities. Under the new rules, residents will be allowed to designate up to two essential family caregivers who will be provided necessary training to allow them to safely go inside a facility for a scheduled visit, including in the resident's room, to help ensure their loved one's physical, social and emotional needs are being met. Designated caregivers will not be required to maintain physical distancing, but only one caregiver can visit a resident at a time  
<https://hhs.texas.gov/about-hhs/communications-events/news/2020/09/hhsc-expands-visitation-long-term-care-facilities>

## **Washington (WA)**

### *Office of the Governor Jay Inslee*

- Issued nursing home restrictions by Governor's Proclamation for visitation to nursing homes, including maintenance of visitors logs for 30 days, screening staff and volunteers, and quarantine of residents (slated to end April 9, 2020)  
[https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/proclamations/20-06%20Coronavirus%20%28tmp%29.pdf?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/proclamations/20-06%20Coronavirus%20%28tmp%29.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

15. Screening and Visitors Continued

*Washington State Department of Health*

- Updated recommendations for long term care facilities with sample visitor announcements, employee callout logs and outdoor visitation guidelines for facilities  
<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/HealthcareProviders/LongTermCareFacilities>
- Developed a website that provides long term care facilities with up-to-date information and guidance on COVID-19. Resources include risk assessments, visitor announcements, outbreak criteria, outdoor visitation guidance, signage, point prevalence testing information, and more  
<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/NovelCoronavirusOutbreak2020COVID19/HealthcareProviders/LongTermCareFacilities>
- Issued guidelines for long term care (LTC) facilities, which include:
  - Cancellation of group activities
  - Active screening of residents
  - Screening of staff at beginning of shift for fever and respiratory symptoms
  - Restriction of visitors and non-essential health care personnel except for compassionate care  
<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/COVID-19GuidanceforLong-TermCareFacilities.pdf>

**West Virginia (WV)**

*AMFM Nursing & Rehabilitation Centers*

- American Medical Facilities Management (AMFM) Nursing and Rehabilitation Centers has their comprehensive COVID-19 visitor information page that includes an online dashboard that shows current patient testing statuses, and incorporates the visitor reopening phase approach the Office of the Governor of West Virginia Governor Justice began on June 17, 2020. Visitor Reopening Phases for centers fall into one of four phases based on the current spread of COVID-19 as outlined by Governor Justice. The AMFM page provides daily updates to testing, current phase for each center, a detailed phase description, and visitor guidelines. The Visitor Information page is a transparent educational resource for families and caregivers  
<https://www.amfmwv.com/visitation-information>

*Office of Health Facility Licensure & Certification*

- The Nursing Home and Assisted Living Residences COVID-19 Reopening Plan outlines a reopening framework for facilitating safe visitation policies within long term care facilities. It uses a color-coded system—red (most restrictive), orange, yellow, and green (least restrictive)—to notify the public about visitation status at facilities in each county. The state assigns colors using a metric calculation that is adjusted by population  
<https://dhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Documents/Nursing-Home-COVID19-Reopening-Plan-Revised-August-2020.pdf>
- West Virginia Governor Jim Justice reported August 12, 2020 that there are 28 active COVID-19 outbreaks in nursing homes across the state of West Virginia. He issued an executive order to temporarily prohibit all visitation in West Virginia Nursing Home facilities, except for cases of compassionate care due to end-of-life or deteriorating physical and/or mental health. The executive order went into effect on Thursday, August 13, 2020 at 12:01 AM.  
<https://governor.wv.gov/News/press-releases/2020/Pages/COVID-19-UPDATE-Gov.-Justice-temporarily-restricts-nursing-home-visitation;-extends-closure-of-Monongalia-County-bars-by-s.aspx>

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 15. Screening and Visitors Continued

#### *Stonerise Healthcare LLC*

- Stonerise Healthcare LLC has adapted its online dashboard to reflect the visitor reopening phased approach the Office of the Governor began on June 17, 2020
  - Visitor Reopening Phases for centers will fall into one of four phases based on the current spread of COVID-19 as outlined by Governor Justice. The phases are as follows:
    - Phase Red: Active COVID-19-positive residents or positive residents within the last 14 days
    - Phase Blue: Can be called at any time during Phase Yellow or Phase Green if two or more residents test positive, or if it is determined that there is substantial community spread as defined by the Bureau for Public Health
    - Phase Yellow: Facilities with no COVID-19-positives, and/or no substantial community spread for the immediately preceding 14 days
    - Phase Green: Facilities that have progressed 14 consecutive days under phase yellow with no COVID-19-positives and no substantial community spread
- <https://stonerisehealthcare.com/location-status>

#### *West Virginia Health Care Association*

- In conjunction with West Virginia Department of Health and Human Services Bureau for Public Health Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology, developed guidelines for COVID-19 outbreaks in long term care facilities
- <https://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx>
- Employee screening tool
  - Visitor screening tool

#### **Wyoming (WY)**

##### *Wyoming Department of Health (WDH)*

- On October 1, 2020, WDH released recommendations for assisted living and nursing homes to consider when allowing visitors. The recommendations align with those that were released by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services on September 17, 2020
- [https://health.wyo.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/SNF-and-ALF-Guidance\\_UpdateSept2020\\_FINAL\\_PDF.pdf](https://health.wyo.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/SNF-and-ALF-Guidance_UpdateSept2020_FINAL_PDF.pdf)

## 16. VACCINATIONS

### APPLICABLE TO ALL STATES

#### *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)*

- On August 21, 2020, the CDC published the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices regarding the use of seasonal influenza vaccines in the United States for the 2020-2021 influenza season  
[https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/rr/rr6908a1.htm?s\\_cid=rr6908a1\\_w](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/rr/rr6908a1.htm?s_cid=rr6908a1_w)
- The CDC website includes a webpage dedicated to influenza as it pertains to people 65 years of age and older. Information covers the importance of influenza vaccination during the COVID-19 pandemic, the elevated risk of older adults, types of vaccine formulated for older adults (such as higher potency vaccine), pneumococcal vaccination, other preventive actions, symptoms, treatment, and more  
<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/highrisk/65over.htm>
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) regarding the 2020-2021 influenza (flu) season are available on the CDC website. Categories in the FAQ include: details of the 2020-2021 flu vaccines, information about the flu as it pertains to COVID-19, obtaining a flu vaccine amidst the COVID-19 pandemic as well as administering flu vaccines during the COVID-19 pandemic, and more  
<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/season/faq-flu-season-2020-2021.htm>
- The CDC website contains a toolkit for increasing influenza vaccination among health care workers in long term care settings  
<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/toolkit/long-term-care/index.htm>
- Information for health care professionals regarding the 2020-2021 influenza season. Find links to resources addressing vaccination, infection control, prevention, treatment and diagnosis of seasonal influenza  
<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/season/health-care-professionals.htm>
- Information on the 2020-2021 seasonal influenza vaccine supply available on the CDC website  
<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/prevent/vaxsupply.htm#:~:text=For%20the%202020%2D2021%20season%2C%20only%20multidose%20vial%20presentations%20of,i.e.%2C%20preservative%2Dfree>
- The CDC webpage, “Pneumococcal Vaccination: What Everyone Should Know,” provides information about who should and who should not get pneumococcal vaccine, types of vaccine, efficacy of the vaccine, side effects, and more  
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/pneumo/public/index.html>
- Information for health care professionals about pneumococcal vaccination, including storage and handling guidance as well as proper administration with specified intervals between doses  
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/pneumo/hcp/index.html>

#### *Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)*

- CMS does not currently require written consent for vaccines; however, there is a legal requirement to provide the Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) for specified vaccines. See this helpful document posted by the Immunization Action Coalition  
<https://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2027.pdf>
- CMS maintains a webpage for providers presenting an array of information about billing and coding for flu shots  
<https://www.cms.gov/flu-provider>



## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 16. Vaccinations Continued

- See this October 28, 2020, news release from CMS which reports that the federal government will be providing access to the COVID-19 vaccine at no cost to all Americans  
<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/trump-administration-acts-ensure-coverage-life-saving-covid-19-vaccines-therapeutics>

#### *United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)*

- Health care providers are required by law to report adverse events, following vaccination, that fall under certain criteria. HHS' online resource, "Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS)," provides complete information about reporting and includes links for reporting online or via PDF form  
<https://vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html>
- On September 23, 2020, HHS announced upcoming action by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to provide \$200 million to jurisdictions for COVID-19 vaccine preparedness. Funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) will provide critical infrastructure support to existing grantees through CDC's immunization cooperative agreement. CDC is awarding \$200 million to 64 jurisdictions through the existing Immunizations and Vaccines for Children cooperative agreement. These funds, along with the previous support CDC has provided, will help states prepare for the COVID-19 vaccine  
<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/09/23/administration-announces-200-million-from-cdc-jurisdictions-covid-19-vaccine-preparedness.html>
- HHS posted a report, "From the Factory to the Frontlines: The Operation Warp Speed Strategy for Distributing a COVID-19 Vaccine." This report to Congress details a strategy to achieve the principal purpose and objective of Operation Warp Speed: ensuring that every American who wants to receive a COVID-19 vaccine can receive one, by delivering safe and effective vaccine doses to the American people beginning January 2021  
<https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/strategy-for-distributing-covid-19-vaccine.pdf>
- See this slide deck of the CDC's COVID-19 Vaccination Program Interim Playbook for Jurisdiction Operations. It covers considerations for states, territories, and local public health programs regarding operationalizing COVID-19 vaccine response in their jurisdiction.  
[https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz-managers/downloads/COVID-19-Vaccination-Program-Interim\\_Playbook.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz-managers/downloads/COVID-19-Vaccination-Program-Interim_Playbook.pdf)

#### *United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), United States Department of Defense (DoD)*

- On October 16, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services and the United States Department of Defense announced the Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program. Agreements were made with CVS and Walgreens to both provide and administer COVID-19 vaccine to long term care community, both residents and staff. There will be no out of pocket costs to the vaccine recipients. Starting October 19, 2020, facilities will be able indicate their preference for opting in and select their pharmacy source. Of note, this program is not mandated for long term care facilities.  
<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/10/16/trump-administration-partners-cvs-walgreens-provide-covid-19-vaccine-protect-vulnerable-americans-long-term-care-facilities-nationwide.html>

## STATE-SPECIFIC ACTIONS

### Alabama (AL)

#### Alabama Department of Health

- Beginning October 1, all Immunization Patient Registry with Integrated Technology (ImmPRINT) enrolled health care providers can order a minimum of 100 doses of free adult flu vaccines.
  - ImmPRINT is a statewide population-based information system for all children born in Alabama since January 1, 1993 and adults  
[https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/immunization/assets/flu vaccine\\_adult.pdf](https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/immunization/assets/flu vaccine_adult.pdf)

### Hawaii (HI)

#### Hawaii State Department of Health

- The Hawaii State Department of Health (HDOH) formed a core planning team with representatives from local, state, and federal levels as well as private sector partners to develop the state's COVID-19 vaccination plan. The plan provides operational and logistical guidance for planning and coordinating a statewide COVID-19 vaccination effort to effectively request, secure, receive, store, stage, distribute, dispense and recover vaccine assets. The plan further describes the concept of operations and identified anticipated roles and responsibilities of organizations supporting this effort  
[https://hawaii covid19.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Hawaii-COVID-19-Vaccination-Plan-Draft\\_Executive-Summary\\_101620.pdf](https://hawaii covid19.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Hawaii-COVID-19-Vaccination-Plan-Draft_Executive-Summary_101620.pdf)

### Indiana (IN)

#### Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH)

- ISDH released a draft plan for statewide distribution of COVID-19 vaccines on October 20, 2020. Nursing home staff are included in Phase 1-A, while nursing home residents would fall under Phase 1-B (vulnerable)  
[https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/Indiana%20COVID-19%20Vaccination%20Plan\\_%20Interim%20Draft.pdf](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/Indiana%20COVID-19%20Vaccination%20Plan_%20Interim%20Draft.pdf)

### Maryland (MD)

#### Lorien Health Services

- October 15, 2020, Lorien's CEO crafted a letter to residents and families regarding implementation of important measures to safeguard residents and employees. Lorien has made it mandatory for all employees to receive the flu vaccination and is actively encouraging all residents to obtain a flu vaccination. The letter also explains the facility's proactive installation of over 200 iWave-C technology self-cleaning, bi-polar ionization generators, for actively treating the air quality in each facility  
[https://www.lorienhealth.com/application/files/3516/0285/5697/10.15.20\\_Family\\_Update.pdf](https://www.lorienhealth.com/application/files/3516/0285/5697/10.15.20_Family_Update.pdf)

### Massachusetts (MA)

#### Massachusetts Senior Care Organization

- Kicked off "Fight the Flu" campaign, on October 1, 2020, with goal to reach 90 percent of nursing home staff and speak directly to those declining the vaccine. The campaign features strategies and resources for promoting influenza vaccinations within long term care facilities, including offering the shot during routine COVID testing  
<https://www.maseniorcare.org/member-resources/e-news-updates/mass-senior-care-kicks-fight-flu-campaign>

### Minnesota (MN)

Minnesota Association of Geriatrics Inspired Clinicians (MAGIC) Clinical Practice Alliance Committee (CPAC)

- Posted a new resource, “2020-2021 Influenza Protocol for Recognition, Diagnosis, Treatment and Prophylaxis for use in Skilled Nursing and Assisted Living Facilities”  
[https://www.minnesotageriatrics.org/uploads/1/1/8/4/118442543/2020-2021\\_cpac\\_influenza\\_protocol\\_pdf.pdf](https://www.minnesotageriatrics.org/uploads/1/1/8/4/118442543/2020-2021_cpac_influenza_protocol_pdf.pdf)

### Missouri (MO)

Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services (DHSS)

- Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services has created a *COVID-19 Vaccine Information for Vaccinators* webpage. The webpage contains the State of Missouri COVID-19 vaccination plan as of October 11, 2020, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) vaccination information, and general vaccine information  
<https://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/novel-coronavirus/vaccine.php>

### New Hampshire (NH)

Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center

- Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center (DHMC) is offering drive thru flu clinics to promote the annual flu vaccine and make it easier for patients to get their shots. A number of drive-up clinics are happening throughout the month of October.  
[https://www.dartmouth-hitchcock.org/flu/dhmc\\_flu\\_vaccine\\_schedule.html](https://www.dartmouth-hitchcock.org/flu/dhmc_flu_vaccine_schedule.html)

### New Jersey (NJ)

State of New Jersey Department of Health

- In anticipation of the approval of a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine, the New Jersey Department of Health is working with other state, federal, and local agencies to plan for the fast and equitable distribution of a vaccine to all New Jersey communities. This webpage provides resources such as: “The 8 Things to Know about Vaccination Planning, ensuring the safety of COVID-19 Vaccines” and “Frequently Asked Questions About COVID-19 Vaccination”  
[https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/topics/covid2019\\_vaccination.shtml](https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/topics/covid2019_vaccination.shtml)

### North Carolina (NC)

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS)

- Issued press release and online resources urging residents to get vaccinated against influenza to help protect themselves, their families and those around them as the state enters flu season amid the COVID-19 pandemic  
<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/news/press-releases/ncdhhs-officials-urge-north-carolinians-get-vaccinated-flu-season-begins-stress>
- On October 16, 2020, North Carolina submitted its COVID-19 Vaccination Plan to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. North Carolina’s vaccine plan reflects five principles that guide the planning for and distribution of one or more COVID-19 vaccines in the state  
<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/news/press-releases/ncdhhs-submits-covid-19-vaccination-plan-cdc-0>

## State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

### 16. Vaccinations Continued

#### North Carolina Institute of Medicine

- The North Carolina Institute of Medicine is convening a state COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Committee to provide feedback to the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services on its COVID-19 vaccination plan. The Advisory Committee is comprised of stakeholders including public health experts, health care providers, advocacy organization leaders, and representatives of essential workers and at-risk populations  
<https://nciom.org/north-carolina-institute-of-medicine-convenes-state-covid-19-vaccine-advisory-committee>

#### North Dakota (ND)

##### North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH)

- On August 10, 2020, NDDoH announced that North Dakota was selected by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as one of four states to be part of a pilot project to plan for distribution of a COVID-19 vaccine. This is not a vaccine trial  
<https://www.health.nd.gov/news/north-dakota-selected-cdc-pilot-project-covid-19-vaccine-planning>

#### Virginia (VA)

##### Virginia Department of Health (VDH)

- Posted a September 24 YouTube video for training health care providers on the use of dry ice safety and vaccine storage due to the extreme cold required to effectively store COVID-19 vaccines  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=myUsKw6KTvY&feature=youtu.be>

#### Wyoming (WY)

##### Wyoming Department of Health

- Wyoming Department of Health presented their interim draft vaccination plan for the long-term care facilities and assisted living facilities in the state of Wyoming. The plan identifies critical populations and acknowledges key assumptions such as dose availability, vaccine storage and number of doses anticipated, as well as number of days of separation between doses.  
<https://health.wyo.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Interim-Draft-WDH-COVID-19-Vaccination-Plan10-16-20-b.pdf>
- Link to the Pharmacy Partners for Long Term Care Program is below. Enrolled COVID-19 vaccine providers will be able to submit vaccine orders, at no cost, through the Wyoming Immunization Registry.  
<https://health.wyo.gov/publichealth/immunization/wyoming-covid-19-vaccine-information/covidvaccineproviders/>

## II. TELEHEALTH

### Alaska (AK)

*Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association*

- Developed a telehealth quick start toolkit for all care settings

### Arizona (AZ)

*United Telehealth Corporation*

- This corporation facilitated telehealth technician visits for several of the post-acute facilities to test residents (free of charge) for transfer clearance to assisted living during this pandemic. They have also been utilized by physicians and staff in skilled nursing facilities

*The University of Arizona*

- The Arizona Telemedicine Program is conducting virtual webinars to help providers, such as nursing homes, across the state quickly strengthen their telemedicine programs  
<https://telemedicine.arizona.edu>
- This group created a position dedicated to coordinating telehealth visits. This person arranges a time with the provider and nurse. This helps the nurse stay on task by not having to coordinate these efforts

### California (CA)

*Los Angeles Jewish Home*

- Student pharmacists are conducting Zoom meetings with residents to review medication regimens and to provide education to residents about their medications. The student pharmacists are also providing medication regimen review to prescribers to potentially deprescribe medications. This best practice is a win-win, including active learning for the student pharmacists and social interaction for the residents

### Georgia (GA)

*Office of the Governor Brian P. Kemp*

- The Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, working with the Department of Community Health, has requested that Georgia Health Information Network (GaHIN) provide certain information as part of the state's COVID-19 response and re-opening planning
- It is likely that the information request will be on a continuing basis during the COVID-19 public health emergency
- The data elements requested at this time include the following: admits, discharges, transfers (ADT); death reporting; electronic lab reports (ELR); and emergency management services (EMS)
- Provided member updates on Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) privacy and other Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and agency information  
<https://www.gahin.org>

## II. Telehealth Continued

### Hawaii (HI)

*University of Hawaii, Hawaii State Rural Health Association*

- A COVID-19 Project ECHO (Extension for Community Health Outcomes) education and training series is provided weekly. All long term care and assisted living facilities are invited. The series topics include: donning/doffing personal protective equipment (PPE), repurposing PPE, COVID-19 testing procedures, resident isolation, staff quarantine, and telemedicine in long term care <https://geriatrics.jabsom.hawaii.edu/ltss>

### Iowa (IA)

*Iowa Pharmacy Association (IPA)*

- The IPA Long Term Care and Senior Care Advisory Committee advises the IPA Board of Trustees and staff on issues including short cycle dispensing, geriatric therapy updates, and changing federal rules related to long term care (LTC) and senior care. The committee includes about 25 IPA members that hold differing roles across LTC practice – such as dispensing only to facilities, serving as consultants to facilities, serving as geriatric clinic-based pharmacists, etc. The group recently discussed sharing sample data-sharing agreements to sign with a LTC facility to gain access to the electronic health record (EHR) for consulting documentation. Its members endorse access to facility e-charts. Facilities have also used FaceTime/Skyping services to observe medication passes, helping to ensure these requirements still occurred when a pharmacist was not present in the facility <https://www.iarx.org>

### Massachusetts (MA)

*Partners Healthcare*

- Digital Technology to Curve COVID-19 Pandemic: Organization offers implementation guidance and policy insights relevant to the use of virtual care tools to meet the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic
  - The Virtual Visits program depicts a real time video interaction between a provider and patient
  - The Virtual Consults program depicts a real time video interaction between a referring provider and the expert teleconsultant
  - The eVisits program depicts a secure text-based exchange between a provider and patient<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41746-020-0279-6>

### Michigan (MI)

*Michigan Office of the Governor*

- Theoria Medical x 5-Star Telemed is providing telemedicine in long term care facilities with 24-hour physician access, including on-demand behavioral health access, comprehensive assessment training for nursing using mobile equipment (remote auscultation, tele-ultrasound, 12-lead electrocardiogram (EKG) test, wireless spirometry, blood glucose, and blood pressure capability). A multi-camera device allows for wound assessment and integration of patient centered communication (PCC) with electronic health records (EHR) for interoperability <https://www.5startelemed.com>

## II. Telehealth Continued

### Missouri (MI)

#### *Show-Me ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes)*

- Launched a COVID-19 ECHO. ECHO is a best-practice method for transferring appropriate specialty knowledge to non-specialist clinicians, such as primary care providers in rural areas. A multidisciplinary expert team, led by the state's Department of Health and Senior Services director and including university physicians, uses video and teleconferencing to share the latest information, answer questions, and discuss management of patient cases presented by participants  
<https://showmeecho.org/clinics/covid-19>

### Nevada (NV)

#### *Nevada Department of Health and Human Services*

- *The department is helping seniors who are hoping to avoid unnecessary hospitalizations connect with their health care providers through telehealth services. The program helps seniors understand what is covered and staff members can assist with telehealth visits*  
<https://www.nevada211.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/NV-CAN-Telehealth-flyer-general-ADA-3.pdf>

#### *Various Nursing Homes*

- Many nursing homes have turned to the use of technology and telehealth. Attending physicians and psychologists are using telehealth for patient visits, with some using tablets attached to an IV pole to accommodate a meaningful telehealth visit between patient and doctor

### New Jersey (NJ)

#### *Exchange Physical Therapy Group*

- This provider was able to implement telehealth visits quickly to ensure that patients continued to receive rehabilitation services. The practice has maintained 10 percent of its patients via telehealth, continuing to employ six out of 11 therapists at about 40 percent of their pre-COVID-19 visit volume. The practice plans to continue telehealth availability for patients who are unable to get to the clinic  
<https://www.exchangephysicaltherapygroup.com/blog/how-one-pt-clinic-adopted-telehealth-in-response-to-covid-19-by-webpt>

### New Mexico (NM)

#### *University of New Mexico Project ECHO*

- The University of New Mexico Project ECHO is offering case scenario discussions focusing on nursing staff resiliency and infection control  
<https://echo.unm.edu/covid-19/sessions/mqiha>

### New York (NY)

#### *New York State Department of Health, LeadingAge NY*

- Developed COVID-19 response recommendations for nursing homes
  - Scheduled a call-in phone conference with the medical director specifically for families to provide information on COVID-19 and to give families the ability to ask questions in real time
  - Initiated an e-mail newsletter for families with pictures and news about what the facility is doing to help keep residents busy and occupied during this time

## II. Telehealth Continued

- Set up an automated phone call system to make mass calls to families with updates  
<https://www.leadingagency.org>

### *New York State Department of Health*

- Issued comprehensive guidance regarding use of telehealth, including telephonic services during the COVID-19 State of Emergency
- New York State Medicaid will reimburse telephonic assessment, monitoring, and evaluation and management services provided to members in cases where face-to-face visits may not be recommended and it is appropriate for the member to be evaluated and managed by telephone
- Telephonic communication will be covered when provided by any qualified practitioner or service provider. All telephonic encounters documented as appropriate by the provider would be considered medically necessary for payment purposes in Medicaid Fee for Service (FFS) or Medicaid Managed Care  
[https://www.health.ny.gov/health\\_care/medicaid/program/update/2020/no05\\_2020-03\\_covid-19\\_telehealth.htm#general](https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/program/update/2020/no05_2020-03_covid-19_telehealth.htm#general)

### **Ohio (OH)**

#### *Ohio Department of Health (ODH)*

- Launched a telehealth line for the general public to ask questions about how to protect themselves and prepare for COVID-19 in their community. The ODH COVID-19 call center staffers operate the center from 9 AM to 8 PM daily, including weekends. Call center staff includes licensed nurses and infectious disease experts. They are available to answer questions and provide accurate information about COVID-19, its risk to the public, and the state's response  
<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/resources/covid-19-call-center/covid-19-odh-call-center>

#### *Ohio Guidestone*

- The expansion of telehealth outreach during pandemic provided increased access to patients. Since the stay-at-home order, Guidestone has expanded its services throughout the state and increased access to people with substance abuse disorders. It transitioned its in-person visits to telephone contact. Monthly call volume is normally 850 calls; this jumped to 11,000 calls in March and 27,000 calls in April  
<https://katu.com/features/mental-health-matters/ohio-guidestone-expands-telehealth-services-during-covid-19-pandemic-05-27-2020>

### **Oregon (OR)**

#### *Various State Agencies/Stakeholders*

- In Oregon, there are many players working to support nursing homes and the greater Oregon health care community. State actions identified include:
  - Larger corporations have supported facilities with the implementation of telehealth practices to conduct visits whenever appropriate



## II. Telehealth Continued

### Virginia (VA)

#### *Mid-Atlantic Telehealth Resource Center*

- Created and posted resources online for rapidly deploying telehealth in post-acute care and long term care settings  
<https://www.matrc.org/matrc-telehealth-%20resources-for-covid-19>

#### *Our Lady of Peace Retirement Community, University of Virginia Health System (UVA)*

- Upon having residents test positive for COVID-19, Our Lady of Peace Retirement Community partnered with its community academic health system, UVA, to use Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) to provide support and clinical consultations to the facility. Using this system, the facility accessed geriatricians, a pulmonologist, and an infection preventionist. Each morning, the facility conducts virtual rounds with a medical team comprised of a geriatrician, pulmonologist and primary care physician via ECHO to review the clinical status of COVID-19-positive residents  
<https://uvahealth.com/services/telemedicine/echo>

### West Virginia (WV)

#### *Stonerise Health Care Corporation*

- Stonerise Healthcare Corporation owns a chain of nursing homes in West Virginia and has developed its own reporting page related to COVID-19 with scheduling tele-visits with residents for family members  
<http://www.stonerisehealthcare.com/coronavirus-update>

### Wisconsin (WI)

#### *Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Superior Health Quality Alliance*

- Provides coordinated facilitation of tele-Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) for nursing homes in counties with larger number of COVID-19 cases in partnership with the Division of Public Health, Division of Quality Assurance (State Survey Agency,) and Superior Health Quality Alliance
- Cross train surveyor staff to assist with tele-ICAR completion

### III. ORGANIZATIONS AVAILABLE TO ASSIST NURSING HOMES

#### NATIONAL GUARD

##### **Alabama (AL)**

###### *Alabama National Guard*

- The Alabama National Guard, under the leadership of Governor Kay Ivey, will assist designated nursing homes in the state response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Specially trained and equipped National Guard teams will sanitize and disinfect nursing homes that have COVID-19 positive residents and/or employees and will train staff on the techniques of donning and doffing personal protective equipment

##### **Arizona (AZ)**

###### *Arizona National Guard (AzNG)*

- AzNG has obtained level II and level III reusable (fabric) gowns. AzNG representatives are calling nursing homes to determine need and create a priority list for distribution. In addition, AzNG has created mobile teams to provide training on how to use and maintain the gowns

##### **California (CA)**

###### *Los Angeles County Emergency Operations Center*

- Developed exemptions for emergency medical technicians (EMTs) to function as nurses' aides to increase the staffing at the five impacted skilled nursing facilities in the county and engaged the National Guard to provide ancillary support  
[https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/CALACOUNTY/2020/04/22/file\\_attachments/1433947/COVID-19%20Update\\_04.22.20.pdf](https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/CALACOUNTY/2020/04/22/file_attachments/1433947/COVID-19%20Update_04.22.20.pdf)

##### **Colorado (CO)**

###### *Colorado National Guard, Office of the Governor Jared Polis*

- Colorado Governor Jared Polis initiated a COVID-19 Innovation Response Team with a multi-pronged response, including increased testing, tailored social-distancing measures, a reinforced health care system, and a bolstering of state epidemiological resources
- The Colorado National Guard was deployed to test residents and staff at three of the state's largest nursing homes, even though outbreaks had not been reported at the facilities
- The Strike Force Team set a goal to conduct proactive widespread asymptomatic testing for both nursing home residents and staff, to identify cases early and minimize the potential for an outbreak. The team has prioritized facilities serving the most residents, as they are at the highest risk for an outbreak
- To date, 110,690 testing kits have been distributed to 176 facilities who have indicated they just need support with supplies. Governor Polis has asked the federal government to extend the National Guard deployment past the current authorization in August to assist with these efforts

*III. Organizations Available to Assist Nursing Homes  
National Guard Continued*

**District of Columbia (DC)**

*Washington DC National Guard*

- The Washington DC National Guard COVID-19 Task Force Able Response Team completed a convoy pick-up of medical ventilators in Delaware and delivered them to the D.C. Department of Health as part of its COVID-19 response  
<https://www.airforcetimes.com/news/coronavirus/2020/04/21/latest-national-guard-covid-19-update-troop-count-at-38700>

**Florida (FL)**

*Office of the Governor Ron DeSantis*

- Ordered National Guard to test for COVID-19 in nursing homes and ordered strike teams” to help patrol for asymptomatic carriers as outbreaks occurred  
<https://thehill.com/changing-america/well-being/prevention-cures/492987-florida-governor-orders-national-guard-to-test>

**Georgia (GA)**

*Office of the Governor Brian P. Kemp*

- Activated and deployed National Guard to long term care facilities with COVID-19 cases to implement infection control protocols and enhanced sanitation methods to mitigate exposure  
<https://gov.georgia.gov/press-releases/2020-04-01/kemp-carden-deploy-soldiers-fight-covid-19-long-term-care-facilities>

*Georgia Healthcare Facility Regulation Department*

- Georgia Healthcare Facility Regulation Department worked closely with the Department of Public Health, the Georgia Health Care Association, and the National Guard to stay abreast of COVID-19 activity and its impact on centers while remaining vigilant for highest quality of care for the residents in Georgia
- Surveyors connected with long term care organizations to collect information related to COVID-19 and coordinated with the Georgia National Guard to develop a system for collection of COVID-19 data. The data collection platform was released daily at 2 PM, replacing a previous report from the Governor’s Office  
<https://dch.georgia.gov/divisionsoffices/healthcare-facility-regulation>

*Georgia National Guard, Department of Public Health, Department of Community Health*

- Developed a testing strategy in response to Governor Kemp’s recommendations to support broader testing and to prioritize testing of vulnerable populations and health care professionals
- Ultimately, this strategy will expand to include private or commercial labs. Approximately 200+ nursing homes have invited teams into their centers for cleaning and sanitizing, staff education, and assistance with testing  
<https://www.ghca.info/Files/National%20Guard%20Test%20Team%20for%20LTCF%20Process.pdf>

**Indiana (IN)**

*Indiana National Guard*

- Received training in personal protective equipment (PPE), self-decontamination, and patient transfer to assist their communities, including nursing homes
- Indiana National Guard as part of COVID-19 – long term care update released in ISDH newsletter dated June 16, 2020

### *III. Organizations Available to Assist Nursing Homes National Guard Continued*

- The National Guard is assisting with the delivery and pick up of testing supplies from facilities  
<https://www.in.gov/isdh/files/ltcnews432020.pdf>

#### *Office of the Governor Eric Holcomb*

- On the October 21, 2020, video broadcast to provide updates to the Indiana fight against COVID-19, Governor Holcomb and the Chief Medical Officer for the Indiana Department of Health, discuss 5 targeted steps to combat the spread of COVID-19. Among these steps is the November 1st deployment of the National Guard to assist long term care staff with the burden of COVID-19 testing in Indiana nursing homes. See video at the 20-minute mark:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KiwjtKO7yRI>
- Beginning November 1, 2020, the Indiana National Guard will help nursing homes with COVID-19 testing and data entry to allow long term care staff more time to directly care for residents. Facilities currently experiencing outbreaks will receive the first priority for assistance  
<https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/post-acute/indiana-national-guard-to-help-combat-covid-19-in-long-term-care-facilities.html>

#### **Iowa (IA)**

##### *Office of the Governor Kim Reynolds*

- TestIowa.com was launched to help officials target areas of opportunity and help them make decisions about reopening the state
- New testing sites were set up to test an additional 3,000 people a day
- First responders and medical personnel were prioritized for testing
- Iowa National Guard troops were mobilized to respond to COVID-19 outbreaks at the state's meat packing companies. Troops helped deliver testing equipment to packing plants, transported kits to labs, and helped packing plants with cleaning
- A "testing strike team" was sent to Tama County in response to an outbreak at a long term care facility. All staff at the facility were tested for COVID-19
- Daily briefings were held, state resources were activated, and equipment, personnel, technical assistance/guidance, supplies, and essential services were deployed to provide assistance in the form of traffic control, security, vaccines, transportation, and other emergency response and recovery capabilities
- The Governor's COVID-19 website included information for long term care facilities that link to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) resources  
<https://coronavirus.iowa.gov>

#### **Maryland (MD)**

##### *Office of the Governor Larry Hogan*

- Maryland Governor Larry Hogan launched statewide strike teams on April 7, 2020, comprised of the National Guard, state and local health department representatives, emergency medical service clinicians, and doctors and nurses from local hospital systems. The strike teams were intended to provide on-site medical triage, supplies, and equipment to overburdened nursing homes in order to slow the spread of the virus among Maryland's most vulnerable population  
<https://governor.maryland.gov/2020/04/07/governor-hogan-activates-statewide-strike-teams-for-nursing-homes-enacts-order-to-shut-down-unsafe-facilities>

*III. Organizations Available to Assist Nursing Homes  
National Guard Continued*

**Massachusetts (MA)**

*Massachusetts National Guard, The Broad Institute of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harvard*

- Performed one-time testing at nursing homes, rest homes, and assisted living facilities for residents and staff. Mobile testing sites served eligible public safety personnel, including, emergency medical services and state active duty National Guard personnel by appointment <https://www.mass.gov/doc/mobile-testing-program-overview/download>

**Minnesota (MN)**

*Minnesota National Guard*

- The Minnesota National Guard offers ongoing support to the Minnesota Department of Health by staffing and coordinating no-barrier COVID-19 testing locations across the state. Sites are updated at the following link. <https://minnesotanationalguard.ng.mil/mnng-covid-19>

**Nevada (NV)**

*Nevada National Guard*

- Partnered with the Nevada Department of Health Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance to visit skilled nursing facilities for spot checks on infection prevention and control (cleanliness of facility, adequate staffing, and personal protective equipment)

**New Jersey (NJ)**

*New Jersey National Guard*

- Set up an alternate care site in the Atlantic City Convention Center, which provided 250 beds for non-COVID-19 patients <https://www.nationalguard.mil/News/Article/2145373/nj-national-guard-helps-set-up-3rd-field-medical-station>

**New Mexico (NM)**

*New Mexico National Guard*

- Assist in decontamination of facilities where a COVID-19 infection has occurred
- Specimen collection and transport from testing sites statewide
- Staffing alternative care sites

**New York (NY)**

*New York State Department of Health, National Guard COVID-19 Response*

- National Guard provided medical staff at Javits Center and New York city hospitals and testing sites
- New York Air National Guard pararescue airmen, who are trained as emergency medical technicians, assisted in city hospitals <https://www.airforcetimes.com/news/coronavirus/2020/04/21/latest-national-guard-covid-19-update-troop-count-at-38700>

*New York State Health Facilities Association*

- Statewide organization providing updates on most current and authoritative information on COVID-19 relevant to facilities in New York <https://www.nyshfa-nyscal.org/advocacy-updates>

### *III. Organizations Available to Assist Nursing Homes*

#### *National Guard Continued*

- Organizing tech volunteers to assist in providing technology, data driven products to provide resources for the COVID-19 response; over 6,500 experts have volunteered and tools have already been created

<https://www.ny.gov/programs/new-york-state-covid-19-technology-swat-team>

#### **North Carolina (NC)**

##### *North Carolina Army National Guard*

- The North Carolina Army National Guard supported North Carolina Emergency Operations with planning and predictive analysis. Soldiers also worked with the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services to help prepare vital, in-demand medical equipment for shipment to supply centers across the state

#### **North Dakota (ND)**

##### *North Dakota Department of Health*

- North Dakota National Guard and the Southwestern District Health Unit developed the “Operation Drive-in” pilot project to provide testing in two rural communities (Amidon and Gladstone) on a Saturday and Sunday. The organizations used a reverse 911 message to notify community members of testing  
<https://www.governor.nd.gov/news/burgum-announces-pilot-project-expand-covid-19-testing-and-improve-tracing-slow-spread-virus>
- The National Guard assisted with pick-up and delivery of lab specimens and assisted with clean-up of nursing homes if needed

#### **Pennsylvania (PA)**

##### *Pennsylvania National Guard*

- Delaware County nursing homes used Pennsylvania National Guard medics and nurses to assist with staffing shortage due to COVID-19 outbreak  
<https://www.inquirer.com/health/coronavirus/delaware-county-broomall-nursing-coronavirus-national-guard-20200418.html>

#### **Puerto Rico (PR)**

##### *Puerto Rico National Guard*

- Screened passengers at airports, saving the medical professionals for health care settings. Medical schools collaborated with the Puerto Rico National Guard during the screenings to allow health care workers to focus on providing care at hospitals and skilled nursing facilities

#### **Texas (TX)**

##### *Office of the Governor Greg Abbott*

- On May 5, 2020, at the Governor’s direction, the Texas Military Department activated 250 Texas National Guard personnel in support of nursing facilities, with additional activations to meet mission demand. These Guardsmen formed teams to disinfect COVID-19 contaminated care facilities. Teams are based across Texas and are serving the eight Emergency Medical Task Force regions  
<https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/governor-abbott-expands-business-openings-in-texas-announces-surge-response-teams-to-combat-covid-19>

*III. Organizations Available to Assist Nursing Homes  
National Guard Continued*

**West Virginia (WV)**

*Office of the Governor Jim Justice*

- Issued orders on April 17, 2020 for testing of all nursing home residents and workers by the West Virginia National Guard. These orders were issued before any reported nursing home outbreaks. These tests began in early April 2020 when at least one resident or staff member at a facility tested positive for COVID-19

*West Virginia Department of Health*

- West Virginia Department of Health State officials announced on October 21, 2020, the implementation of a new system for nursing home strike teams for COVID-19 outbreaks. When an outbreak occurs, the team will be activated through the health command phone call system. The team will be made up of National Guard members and others, including infectious disease specialists, pulmonary specialists, nursing home specialists, and other physicians. Through regionalized teams around the state, the goal is to be into outbreak nursing homes within 24-48 hours of notification. The state has used strike teams at nursing homes before; however, this time the state has partnered with other organizations, as well as local health departments, and the National Guard. The strike teams are especially needed to help small nursing homes in rural areas. The state is encouraging volunteer consult teams to participate more actively  
<https://www.wvpublic.org/government/2020-10-23/new-strike-team-formed-to-respond-to-coronavirus-outbreaks-in-w-va-nursing-homes>

## PROJECT ECHO-ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES FOR NURSING HOMES

### *Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)*

- On September 29, 2020, AHRQ, in partnership with New Mexico's ECHO Institute in Albuquerque and the Institute for Healthcare Improvement in Boston, announced the establishment of a National Nursing Home COVID Action Network, which will provide free training and assistance with infection control to nursing homes nationwide. This work is being funded through an AHRQ contract that is funded by the Provider Relief Fund authorized under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.  
<https://www.ahrq.gov/news/newsroom/press-releases/covid-action-network.html>

### *University of Hawaii Department of Geriatrics, Hawaii State Rural Health Association*

- The Long term care (LTC) COVID-19 Project Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO) series included topics such as COVID-19 testing, planning for dementia residents, symptom management, and readiness in care homes and congregate settings  
<https://geriatrics.jabsom.hawaii.edu/ltss>

### *Indiana National Nursing Home COVID-19 Action Network (INNHCAN) ECHO*

- INNHCAN ECHO has announced the launch of up to 120 Project ECHO sites beginning the week of November 9, 2020  
<https://www.ihca.org/resource/announcing-the-launch-of-indianas-nursing-home-covid-19-action-network-echo>

### *The Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health ECHO Center at Indiana University Purdue University of Indianapolis*

- Developed a COVID-19-specific ECHO program effective April 1, 2020. ECHO uses Zoom teleconferencing for real-time answers from subject-matter experts to questions from physician practices, produced live and at no-cost with clinical continuing medical education (CME) credits available  
<https://fsph.iupui.edu/doc/COVID-19-ECHO-Launch-.pdf>

### *The Green House Project*

- In partnership with Project ECHO® (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes), a video tele-mentoring platform that spreads knowledge through real-time sharing, learning, and access to subject matter experts, the COVID-19 Best Practices in Nursing Homes initiative will identify and share proven protocols and lessons learned that long term care professionals can use for preparedness, management, and treatment of COVID-19. All sessions are offered free of charge to all nursing home providers  
<https://www.thegreenhouseproject.org/events/covid-19-best-practices-ltc-initiative>

### *Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences*

- Updates Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO) to keep health care providers updated as the situation changes, including the state surge plan, extensive resources and tools and State of the State COVID-19 updates every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday  
<https://health.okstate.edu/echo/covid-19-project-echo.html>



*III. Organizations Available to Assist Nursing Homes  
Project Echo Continued*

*Virginia Department of Health (VDH)*

- Virginia Project ECHO is offering a Just-in-Time COVID-19 Learning Series, covering testing, telehealth, personal protective equipment (PPE), isolation, cohorting, medical management, and vulnerable populations. Find a link to session recordings here:  
<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/project-echo>

*Show-Me ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes)*

- Launched a COVID-19 ECHO. ECHO is a best-practice method for transferring appropriate specialty knowledge to non-specialist clinicians, such as primary care providers in rural areas. A multidisciplinary expert team, led by the state's Department of Health and Senior Services director and including university physicians, uses video and teleconferencing to share the latest information, answer questions, and discuss management of patient cases presented by participants  
<https://showmeecho.org/clinics/covid-19>

*University of New Mexico*

- The University of New Mexico Project ECHO is offering case scenario discussions focusing on nursing staff resiliency and infection control  
<https://echo.unm.edu/covid-19/sessions/mqiha>

*Our Lady of Peace Retirement Community, University of Virginia Health System (UVA)*

- Upon having residents test positive for COVID-19, Our Lady of Peace Retirement Community partnered with its community academic health system, UVA, to use Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) to provide support and clinical consultations to the facility. Using this system, the facility accessed geriatricians, a pulmonologist, and an infection preventionist. Each morning, the facility conducts virtual rounds with a medical team comprised of a geriatrician, pulmonologist and primary care physician via ECHO to review the clinical status of COVID-19-positive residents  
<https://uvahealth.com/services/telemedicine/echo>

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