

Resource List for Post-Acute Care COVID 19 response (as of May 11, 2020)

Federal Government (CMS)

- Skilled nursing facilities are closed to visitors (except for end of life situations), and all congregate services such as group dining and activities have been suspended; virtual visits via technology are encouraged; the 3 day hospital stay for Medicare beneficiaries prior to nursing home admission has been suspended
- **CMS relaxes requirements for hospitals to offer long-term care services (through swing beds), Section 1135 waivers approved for more states:** <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-news-alert-may-11-2020>
- **CMS requires weekly reporting of COVID cases in nursing homes that participate in Medicare and Medicaid no later than May 17:** <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-news-alert-may-7-2020>
- Collection of quality data for Medicare Nursing Home Compare has been suspended;
- Federal long-term care surveys for non-emergency issues have been suspended, but continue for infection control issues;
- Nursing home staff are required to have their temperature taken when they enter a facility, wear full personal protective equipment (PPE) including face masks, follow CDC guidelines on handwashing and comply with CDC guidelines on infection control;
- All staff and residents of skilled nursing facilities should be screened for symptoms of COVID 19;
- Residents with a COVID 19 diagnosis should be segregated from other residents, with dedicated staff providing their care;
- All positive COVID 19 diagnosis cases for residents must be reported to the CDC, as well as residents and their families within 12 hours of diagnosis, but there is wide variation in how this data is being reported.
- Use of telehealth services during COVID 19 has expanded, and now covers therapy services: <https://skillednursingnews.com/2020/04/cms-opens-telehealth-waivers-to-include-physical-occupational-speech-therapy/>
- Nursing homes are pushing for immunity from lawsuits pertaining to the coronavirus: <https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-care/nursing-home-industry-pushes-immunity-lawsuits-during-coronavirus-emergency-n1192001>
- The Coronavirus Commission for Safety and Quality in Nursing Homes was created by CMS to examine how to better prepare the skilled nursing industry for future events like COVID 19: <https://skillednursingnews.com/2020/04/trump-orders-formation-of-nursing-home-quality-safety-commission-in-wake-of-covid-19-crisis/?fbclid=IwAR1rC49qn0YefQpLygAHi9RAZAqpfJSetQ98HkmFVzkzLsP9VQnxiPDvr3lc>
- The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act provides grants for funding for services for older adults and people with disabilities: <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/04/21/hhs-announces-nearly-1-billion-cares-act-grants-support-older-adults-people-with-disabilities-community-during-covid-19-emergency.html>
- Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program and the CARES Act: https://ltombudsman.org/uploads/files/support/Ombudsman_Program_CARES_Act_FAQs_FIN_AL.pdf

- CMS is allowing individuals who have completed an 8 hour temporary emergency nurse training program to be employed as temporary nurse aides in nursing facilities to assist with staff shortages (subject to approval by states) The American Health Care Association (AHCA) is offering a free 8 hour class temporary nurse aide training class to any person that wants to serve in this capacity <https://educate.ahcancal.org/products/temporary-nurse-aide>

State Government

- Most states have taken similar measures to CMS skilled nursing facilities for assisted living communities, requiring closure to visitors except end of life situations, suspension of all congregate dining and activities, staff are required to have their temperature taken, wear PPE and follow universal infection control policies per CDC guidelines. Residents in independent living and ALFs are strongly encouraged not to make trips to the outside community unless medically necessary; virtual visits by family and friends are encouraged;
- Some states have created dedicated COVID 19 nursing home units, and there is an active discussion on where COVID 19 patients discharged from hospitals will go (home or to a nursing home);
- Reporting of COVID 19 cases varies throughout the US; some report at the county level while others report at the facility level. 14 states (AK, HI, NH, RI, IN, ID, KS, MO, MT, NE, SD, VT, WA, WY) are not reporting COVID 19 outbreaks publically, only reporting to the CDC. The list of states reporting COVID 19 cases continues to change: <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/state-reporting-of-cases-and-deaths-due-to-covid-19-in-long-term-care-facilities/>
- Many states are asking their Governors to require COVID 19 testing for all staff and residents in nursing homes; NY and MD require COVID testing for all staff and residents.
- States have revisited their policies for allocation of resources such as ventilators during the COVID 19 crisis. Most states have a policy for allocation of resources, NPR provided an overview of the issues: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2020/04/03/826082727/ventilator-shortages-loom-as-states-ponder-rules-for-rationing>
- Nursing homes are concerned about the potential for lawsuits due to COVID 19, here is a good overview of the issues involved, and state responses: <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/04/23/842153768/nursing-homes-ask-states-for-immunity-from-civil-suits-amid-covid-19>
- Communities of color are harder hit by COVID 19: <https://www.kff.org/coronavirus-policy-watch/growing-data-underscore-communities-color-harder-hit-covid-19/>
- State VOADs (Voluntary Organizations that Assist in Disasters) are actively responding to community needs such as food insecurity, PPE for other types of health workers, etc.
- State Medical Reserve Corps have been activated and are busy credentialing all types of health workers (including retired clinicians) to serve as a backup health care workforce for hospitals and other health care organizations. Some states (Maryland) have a partnership with the state Department of Aging to have volunteers provide home care services to older adults living in the community who need care.

Other Resources and Information

- American Health Care Association (AHCA) Coronavirus Resources Link: https://www.ahcancal.org/facility_operations/disaster_planning/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx

- CDC Infection Control Resources Link: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control.html>
- CMS Long-Term Care Facility Guidance Link: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/4220-covid-19-long-term-care-facility-guidance.pdf>
- Commonwealth Fund podcast on how COVID-19 has affected older adults: https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/podcast/2020/apr/how-has-covid-19-changed-health-care-older-americans?utm_source=facebookads&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=The+Dose&fbclid=IwAR0bGqNw--NkC0IPiB8Rd_cXv3rT8nQ_t9OSifEndbCgiUbDIEIUNKQgoQ8
- Kaiser Family Foundation COVID 19 reporting: <https://www.kff.org/coronavirus-policy-watch/>
- Leading Age Coronavirus Tools and Links Archive https://www.leadingage.org/coronavirus-insights-tools-links-archive?_ga=2.101429313.1757090523.1587734991-168794618.1586742061
- National Nursing Home Social Workers Network Archive: <https://clas.uiowa.edu/socialwork/nursing-home/national-nursing-home-social-work-network>
- Podcast interview with Jim Wright, Medical Director of Canterbury Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center in Richmond, VA and David Grabowski: <https://www.geripal.org/2020/04/covid-in-long-term-care-podcast-with.html>
- Mark Parkinson, CEO of AHCA, CNN interview on nursing homes and COVID 19 YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7TKllyd92Is>
- Bill McGinley, CEO of the American College of Health Care Administrators (ACHCA) on nursing home administrators and COVID 19 response article: <https://www.mcknights.com/blogs/nursing-homes-raw-deal-during-covid-19/>
- JAMA article by David Grabowski and Karen Maddox on Post-Acute Care Preparedness for COVID 19: <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2763818>
- Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel article on Fair allocation of scarce resources during the COVID 19 crisis published in the New England Journal of Medicine: <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMs2005114>

Here are some resources on workplace reopening issues

[https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2020/04/looking-at-covid-19-through-healthy-building-eyes/?utm_source=SilverpopMailing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Daily%20Gazette%2020200427%20\(1\)&fbclid=IwAR3hemCDz-GVjKvGfDjVjS6k8r6vIQaCeUPZz_Xiww2wzh5rIhIXvaS8E](https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2020/04/looking-at-covid-19-through-healthy-building-eyes/?utm_source=SilverpopMailing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Daily%20Gazette%2020200427%20(1)&fbclid=IwAR3hemCDz-GVjKvGfDjVjS6k8r6vIQaCeUPZz_Xiww2wzh5rIhIXvaS8E)

<https://www.cushmanwakefield.com/en/insights/covid-19/recovery-readiness-a-how-to-guide-for-reopening-your-workplace>

Please feel free to pass this information along to your colleagues, and feel free to add information and updates on what your state is doing during this crisis.

Sincerely,

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