

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

June 2021 Version 23

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



Table of Contents

| | |
|---|------------|
| ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS..... | 3 |
| OBJECTIVE..... | 4 |
| STAKEHOLDERS WHO PROVIDED INPUT INCLUDE GOVERNORS’ OFFICES AND GOVERNORS’ COVID-19 TASK FORCES | 4 |
| ORGANIZATION OF THE DOCUMENT | 5 |
| I. STATE ACTIONS FOR COVID-19 MANAGEMENT AND RESPONSE | 6 |
| 1. Cleaning/Disinfection | 6 |
| 2. Reporting/Guidance/Mandated Reporting | 12 |
| 3. Testing | 26 |
| 4. Workforce and Staffing | 47 |
| 5. Cohorting | 61 |
| 6. Infection Control “Strike Teams” | 65 |
| 7. Infection Control Surveys and Other State Survey Activity | 70 |
| 8. Nursing Home (NH) Communications | 75 |
| 9. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Actions to Improve Access to PPE | 94 |
| 10. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Actions to Improve Utilization of PPE..... | 102 |
| 11. Housing and Sheltering | 109 |
| 12. Transportation Needs..... | 112 |
| 13. Patient Transfer | 114 |
| 14. Resources | 122 |
| 15. Screening/Visitors | 159 |
| 16. Vaccinations | 172 |
| II. TELEHEALTH | 210 |
| III. ORGANIZATIONS AVAILABLE TO ASSIST NURSING HOMES | 214 |
| National Guard | 214 |
| Project ECHO-Associated Activities for Nursing Homes | 218 |
| State/District/Territories Index..... | 221 |
| Key Words Index | 223 |

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)[™] 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>

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 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

State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

1. Cleaning/Disinfection Continued

- 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
- The Department is using a Battelle *Critical Care Decontamination System (CCDS)*™, which can 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

State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

1. Cleaning/Disinfection Continued

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

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)[™]

- 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>

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

State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

1. Cleaning/Disinfection Continued

<https://www.msema.org/county-ema>

- Battelle Critical Care Decontamination System (CCDS)[™] 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)[™] 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)[™] 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>

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)

College of Education and Human Ecology at The Ohio State University

- Infection Prevention 101 for Public Spaces educates participants on how infections are spread through public spaces and provides knowledge on how to clean and disinfect to prevent the spread of infectious diseases in public spaces. Program participants completing this free online

State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

1. Cleaning/Disinfection Continued

course will be able to:

- Understand how infections are spread in public spaces
- Describe how cleaning and disinfection can prevent the spread of infectious diseases
- Identify and use effective cleaning and disinfection practices to prevent infections
- Develop and improve a cleaning and sanitation plan to prevent the spread of infectious diseases

<https://osuehe.catalog.instructure.com/courses/infection-prevention-101-for-public-spaces>

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>

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

State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

1. Cleaning/Disinfection Continued

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

2. REPORTING/GUIDANCE/MANDATED REPORTING

Alabama (AL)

Office of the Governor Kay Ivey

- Amended the “Safer at Home Order” until December 11, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.
<https://governor.alabama.gov/assets/2020/11/GKI-2020-Health-Order-Update-Dec-11-Horizontal.pdf>

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)

Arizona Health Care Association

- *The Arizona Health Care Association Disaster Ready Emergency Preparedness Infection Control (EPIC) program created “Top 10 Survey Deficiency Tip Sheets” to support nursing home infection control programs and COVID-19 mitigation efforts. The EPIC team analyzed infection control issues identified in nursing home state surveys to create the tip sheets, which include the associated regulation, examples of deficiencies cited, corrective actions and best practice recommendations, and additional resources. The 10 topics include: personal protective equipment (PPE), infection control precautions, housekeeping/laundry, tuberculosis, isolation precautions, hand hygiene, disinfecting common equipment, water management, social distancing, and visitor and staff screening*
<https://epic.disasterreadyaz.org/clinical-regulatory/tip-sheet>

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

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

State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

2. Reporting/Guidance/Mandated Reporting Continued

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>

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 Department of Public Health

- Georgia Department of Public Health – December 24, 2020, Updated Interim Guidance for Long-Term Care (LTC) Facilities Admitting Residents from a Hospital. At the link, scroll to the bottom for the PDF
<https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-long-term-care-facilities>

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>

Idaho (ID)

Idaho Department of Health and Welfare

- The state of Idaho has made the decision not to shorten the quarantine for contacts of persons with COVID-19. The Department of Health and Welfare recommends that long-term care

State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

2. Reporting/Guidance/Mandated Reporting Continued

facilities maintain the 14-day quarantine

https://coronavirus.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Shortening-duration-of-quarantine-FINAL-2021_1_27.pdf

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>
- Illinois Department of Public Health released region by region contact tracing data. This data can help inform nursing homes with planning for indoor visits. This website will be updated weekly
<http://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/contact-tracing>

Indiana (IN)

Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH)

- On February 26, 2021, ISDH provided guidance that health care workers that are fully vaccinated or have recovered from COVID-19 within 90 days are not required to quarantine upon return
<https://www.ihca.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Travel-Guidance-2.25.2021-01.pdf>
- As testing at long term care (LTC) facilities has expanded with the addition of point of care testing kits, the State has likewise expanded the avenues through which data are collected from facilities. ISDH has released guidelines for facilities to help correctly and accurately submit resident and staff data
https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/INSDH/2020/12/22/file_attachments/1632683/LN_COVID-19LTCDataSubmissionGuidelines12.22.20%20V2.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
- 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%202020-10.29.pdf

State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

2. Reporting/Guidance/Mandated Reporting Continued

- Released Long Term Care (LTC) Facility COVID-19 Data Submission Guidelines on October 29, 2020, which includes clear guidelines to LTC facilities for correctly and accurately submitting data regarding residents and staff
https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19%20LTC%20Data%20Submission%20Guidelines%2010.29.20.pdf

Indiana Health Care Association (IHCA)

- IHCA pushed notification out to their nursing homes encouraging COVID-19 vaccine reporting into the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) for tracking purposes
<https://www.ihca.org/resource/covid-19-vaccine-data-reporting-to-nhsn>

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 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>

- KDHE developed a Response and Containment Guide for Long Term Care and Other Residential Facilities in Kansas. The guide was updated October 29, 2020 to include guidance on monitoring, reporting, and testing cases; personal protective equipment (PPE); and new testing strategies <https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/DocumentCenter/View/982/LTCFs-COVID-19-Response-and-Containment-PDF---10-29-20>

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>
- On November 16, 2020, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services provided updated guidance on the phased reduction of restrictions for long term care facilities. This included links to the two (normalized at 100k population) incidence maps in play (one for testing frequency updated bi-weekly and one for visitation to be checked weekly) <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 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>

State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

2. Reporting/Guidance/Mandated Reporting Continued

Michigan (MI)

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services posted long term care data for COVID-19 cases
https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98163_98173-526911--,00.html

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>

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”

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>
- On February 2, 2021, the Minnesota Department of Health released guidance called Potential Exposure to Residents with COVID-19 in Long term Care, Nursing Home, and Assisted Living Settings. This is a risk assessment and public description of public management of health care workers potentially exposed to COVID-19 from a resident
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/ltcassess.pdf>

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

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
- 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

Mississippi State Department of Health, Office of Epidemiology

State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

2. Reporting/Guidance/Mandated Reporting Continued

- 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>

Nevada (NV)

Nevada Health and Human Services

- Nevada Department of Health and Human Services has updated its COVID response site to include facility-level data representing the number of COVID-19 cases by facility and facility type

<https://app.powerbigov.us/view?r=eyJrIjoiaNDMwMDI0YmQtNmUyYS00ZmFjLWl0MGltZDM0OTY1Y2Y0YzNhliwidCI6ImU0YTM0MGU2LWI4OWUtNGU2OC04ZWZhLTE1NDRkMjcwMzk4MCI9>

New Jersey (NJ)

Office of the Governor Phil Murphy

- 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
- 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 Mexico (NM)

New Mexico Department of Health

- The New Mexico Department of Health on February 4, 2021 updated its Letter of Direction for All Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities. The updates include guidance on proper wearing of a N95 or KN95 mask and the use of gowns in patient care areas
https://growthzonesitesprod.azureedge.net/wp-content/uploads/sites/799/2021/02/Updated-LTC-Directives-2-4-21_Final-2.pdf

New York (NY)

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

- 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>
- 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>
- Within fourteen days of the effective date of this April 15, 2021 regulation, the operator and administrator of every nursing home must ensure that all new personnel, including employees and contract staff, and every new resident and resident readmitted to the facility has an opportunity to receive the first or any required next dose of the COVID-19 vaccine within fourteen days of having been hired by or admitted or readmitted to such facility, as applicable.

2. Reporting/Guidance/Mandated Reporting Continued

Both staff and residents who opt out will need to sign a written affirmation for their signature, which indicates that they were offered the opportunity for a COVID-19 vaccination but declined. The facility must maintain signed affirmations on file at the facility and make such forms available at the request of the Department and certify on a weekly basis, that the facility has proactively offered all new unvaccinated residents and personnel an opportunity to obtain the COVID-19 vaccine. Facilities that don't comply with the new rules may be penalized up to \$2,000 per violation

https://regs.health.ny.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/emergency_regulations/COVID-19%20Vaccinations%20of%20Nursing%20Home%20and%20Adult%20Care%20Facility%20Residents%20and%20Personnel.pdf

North Carolina (NC)

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS)

- 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, 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>
- On October 27, 2020, NCDHHS provided an update to the COVID-19 guidance for North Carolina clinicians and laboratories which includes:
 - Updated information and guidance on social gatherings
 - Updated information on who should be tested for COVID-19
 - Updated information on assessment of patients with acute respiratory illness symptoms when SARSCoV-2 and influenza viruses are both circulating
<https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/guidance/healthcare/COVID-19-Provider-Guidance-Final.pdf>
- NCDHHS has provided guidance on outbreak response support in their long term care toolkit
<https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/guidance/healthcare/Long-Term-Care-Outbreak-Toolkit-Instructions.pdf>
- NCDHHS endorsed use and posted the COVID-19 Long Term Care Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) Tool for Local Health Departments
<https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/guidance/healthcare/Long-Term-Care-Infection-Control-Assessment-Tool.pdf>
- October 27, 2020, NCDHHS released a memo with guidance pertaining to:
 - Updated information and guidance on social gatherings
 - Updated information on who should be tested for COVID-19
 - Updated information on assessment of patients with acute respiratory illness symptoms when SARSCoV-2 and influenza viruses are both circulating
<https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/guidance/healthcare/COVID-19-Provider-Guidance-Final.pdf>

State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

2. Reporting/Guidance/Mandated Reporting Continued

- Providers serve an important role in connecting eligible residents to available isolation and quarantine support. This fact sheet 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>

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.ahcancal.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>

Ohio Department of Health

- Revised March 16, 2021, see this checklist developed to collect population and occupation information for COVID-19 vaccine recipients
<https://odh.ohio.gov/static/covid19/vaccine-providers/covid-19-vaccine-checklist-population-data.pdf>

Ohio Health Care Association

- Fact sheet lists the various ways nursing homes must report test results to both government agencies and notification of families. Fact sheet provides direct links to report entities for ease of access. Scroll and select "COVID Reporting Document"
https://www.ohca.org/admin/covid19_1

State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy

State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

2. Reporting/Guidance/Mandated Reporting Continued

- 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) 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>

South Carolina (SC)

Pruitt Health Corporation

- Pruitt Health Corporation added emergency preparedness information and data to its public website. The data include resident vaccination status, COVID-19 cases and resident testing results
<https://pruitthealth.com/emergency-preparedness>

Tennessee (TN)

Tennessee Department of Health

- The Weekly Long Term Facility COVID-19 Update Call is held every Wednesday at 11:00 CT/Noon ET. It includes updates on outbreak numbers, reporting/testing updates, available resources, and a Q&A section
<https://tngov.webex.com/webappng/sites/tngov/meeting/download/93a8c91dda8e4cd38ddeb3eebc61618f?siteurl=tngov&MTID=m7ff6bbba2d9c9a0e27657ec4cde4f009>

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 formed a task force that meets every other Thursday with representation from

2. Reporting/Guidance/Mandated Reporting Continued

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 Alliant Health Solutions, Julie Clark, 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>
- 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 COVID19 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>
- Long-term Care Regulation has published Provider Letter 2021-04 HHSC COVID-19 Reporting

State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

2. Reporting/Guidance/Mandated Reporting Continued

Process. The letter clarifies the triggering events and process for providers to report positive COVID-19 cases to Texas Health and Human Services Commission consumer incident and intake unit

<https://apps.hhs.texas.gov/providers/communications/2021/letters/PL2021-04.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
- 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

Utah COVID Task Force

- Shared guidelines for non-essential travel for communities

<https://coronavirus.utah.gov/travel>

Virginia (VA)

Office of the Governor Ralph Northam

- Posted November 13, 2020, on the VDOH website, Governor Northam announced new statewide measures to contain COVID-19

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/blog/2020/11/13/governor-northam-announces-new-statewide-measures-to-contain-covid-19>

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

2. Reporting/Guidance/Mandated Reporting Continued

- 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
 - 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

- 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/jbvfb74>

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

Maricopa County Department of Public Health

- Updated March 16, 2021, the Maricopa County Department of Public Health (MCDPH) updated its long-term care guidance on visitation during COVID-19. MCDPH recommends that all CMS-licensed long-term care facilities in the county follow this guidance, which aligns with the recently released Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services visitation guidance. The guidance includes information about outdoor visitation; indoor visitation; compassionate care visitation; communal activities and dining; and visitor testing and vaccination status
https://www.maricopa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/63758/LTCF-Visitation-Guidance_CMS?bidId=

3. Testing Continued

California (CA)

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 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)

Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE)

- The CDPHE COVID-19 testing website offers testing guidance for Colorado health care

3. Testing Continued

professionals and consumers. This includes test sites and locations, testing resources and information

<https://covid19.colorado.gov/testing>

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>

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>

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>

- The Georgia Department of Public Health COVID-19 county positivity rate report has been relocated

<https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-daily-status-report>

United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

3. Testing Continued

- HHS is sending rapid point of care testing instruments to several Georgia 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>

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-guidelines_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-ihc.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,

3. Testing Continued

including question and answer webinar recordings, phased reopening plans, and antigen testing guidelines

<https://leadingageil.org/coronavirus>

Office of the Governor J.B. Pritzker

- 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)

- As testing at long term care (LTC) facilities has expanded with the addition of point of care testing kits, the State has likewise expanded the avenues through which data are collected from facilities. ISDH has released guidelines for facilities to help correctly and accurately submit resident and staff data
https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/INSDH/2020/12/22/file_attachments/1632683/IN_COVID-19LTCDataSubmissionGuidelines12.22.20%20V2.pdf
- 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
- 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
- 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%209.25.20.pdf
- Released COVID-19 Specimen Collection and Submission Guidelines update on May 18, 2020

State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

3. Testing Continued

https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/COVID-19%20specimen%20submission%20and%20collection%20guidelines_5.18.20.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 Department of Public Health

- On January 7, 2021, the Iowa Department of Public Health provides information on Iowa's COVID-19 testing guidance for long-term care. This updated guidance includes FAQs, algorithms for the results, what actions to take based on those results, quick tips for testing and resources
https://idph.iowa.gov/Portals/1/userfiles/61/covid19/LTC%20Antigen%20Testing%20Guidance%201_7_2021.pdf

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>

Kansas (KS)

Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE)

- The Go Get Tested website is a partnership between KDHE, Well Health, HealthTracRX, Texas Health and Human Services, Wellpay, PODs, Lead Commerce, and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) that allows individuals to find COVID-19 testing sites and book appointments for testing. Availability updates automatically every 60 seconds
<https://www.gogettested.com/kansas>
- 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>
- KDHE developed a Response and Containment Guide for Long Term Care and Other Residential Facilities in Kansas. The guide was updated October 29, 2020 to include guidance on monitoring, reporting, and testing cases; personal protective equipment (PPE); and new testing strategies
<https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/DocumentCenter/View/982/LTCFs-COVID-19-Response-and-Containment-PDF---10-29-20>

3. Testing Continued

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)

Kentucky Cabinet for Health & Family Services (KCHFS)

- On December 14, 2020, KCHFS issued a provider guidance memo on the Long-Term Care COVID-19 Surveillance Testing Program for December 2020 and January and February 2021
<https://chfs.ky.gov/cv19/LTCTestingProgramProviderGuidanceUpdate.pdf>
- Although Federal CARES Act funding expired on Dec. 30, 2020, the Consolidated Appropriations Act – 2021 will provide new federal financial resources that enable the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) to enhance the COVID-19 surveillance-testing program for residents and staff of Kentucky's LTCFs effective February 1, 2021
<https://chfs.ky.gov/cv19/LTCProviderTesting.pdf>

Kentucky Hospital Association (KYHA)

- KYHA created an online COVID-19 toolkit that focuses on hospital administrators, health care professionals and Kentucky residents.
<https://www.kyha.com/covid-19-ltc-guidance>

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-collaboration-with-the-ky-department-for-public-health>

TEAM KENTUCKY (Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Kentucky Public Health)

- The state of Kentucky is maintaining a COVID-19 website which contains information about state restriction guidance, 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>

3. Testing Continued

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

Office of the Governor John Bel Edwards, Louisiana Department of Health

- Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards announced on January 22, 2021 a new app from the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) that is designed to tell people if they have had close contact with the coronavirus, hopefully giving them a chance to self-quarantine and avoid spreading it to others. The app is "COVID Defense" and it is anonymous, it does not share data, and it does not feed data to the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH). If any app user gets a positive COVID-19 test and then uploads that information into the app, it will let other app users know if they have been in proximity. This app is voluntary and requires people to put in their own test results. LDH is calling it a COVID-19 exposure notification app
<https://www.coviddefensela.com>

Michigan (MI)

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 guidance for Testing of Nursing Home Inspection Staff
https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178_98455-549259--,00.html
- MDHHS has added new data to its website with lab turnaround times and announced its holiday data schedule
https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98163_98173-545615--,00.html
- 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
- 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>
- Issued April 2, 2021, this document is to assist residential care facilities with how to determine when residents should be placed into quarantine or tested when returning to the facility
https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.leadingagemi.org/resource/resmgr/covid-19/documents/MDHHS_LTCF_Guidance-Quaranti.pdf

Minnesota (MN)

Alzheimer's Association Minnesota-North Dakota

- Alzheimer's Association Minnesota-North Dakota released a video on YouTube about tips and

3. Testing Continued

resources for dementia care during COVID-19 testing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rZ4txJ9RbBI&feature=youtu.be>

Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)

- “Reporting Results of COVID-19 Tests Performed Inside your Long Term Care Facilities” was updated on 11/20/2020 to identify required reporting through the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) for nursing facilities and streamlined links for MDH reporting
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/lcanticenreport.pdf>
- Released on 11/20/2020 COVID-19 testing recommendations for long term care facilities
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/lctctestrec.pdf>
- 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
- 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/lcanticigentest.pdf>
- 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
- 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>
- Essential Resources and Forms for COVID-19 Testing and Case Management in Long Term Care Facilities
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/lctcformsguide.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

3. Testing Continued

- 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>
- The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the University of Missouri-Columbia are collaborating on a statewide project to test wastewater for genetic markers of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. Long Term Care Facilities (LTCFs) are currently being recruited to join this project to help investigate the usefulness of sewershed monitoring in identifying variants and measuring community immunity
<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/f7f5492486114da6b5d6fdc07f81aacf>

Montana (MT)

Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (MDPHHS)

- MDPHHS published a resource on its website to provide guidance for health care providers that conduct laboratory tests. This is especially helpful as nursing homes that conduct point of care testing are required to maintain a clinical laboratory improvement amendments of 1988 (CLIA) waiver. The resource details important life safety code compliance considerations
<https://dphhs.mt.gov/qad/Certification/CLIA>

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. On October 9, 2020, the link was updated to indicate the project is suspended. However, if your facility does still need to establish baseline testing, there is information provided at the link regarding how to go about acquiring baseline testing.

3. Testing Continued

<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>

Office of the Governor Steve Sisolak

- Nevada Governor Steve Sisolak formed the Nevada COVID-19 Response, Relief and Recovery Task Force to secure medical supplies and monetary donations for the state's response to COVID-19. The mission of the task force is to mobilize the private sector in securing supplies, equipment, and funding to meet the community's most urgent needs and to remove barriers to direct and efficient collaboration between partners. In the first week of operation, the Nevada Energy Foundation donated \$1 million in collaboration with the Task Force to nine organizations across Nevada to support those in need
<https://nvc19.org>

Southern Nevada Health District

- The Southern Nevada Health District has updated its COVID-19 resource page and now offers COVID-19 testing by appointment at two Las Vegas locations
<https://registration.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/#>

New Jersey (NJ)

Hackensack Meridian Health's Center for Discovery and Innovation

- Experts at the Hackensack Meridian Center for Discovery and Innovation (CDI) have developed a high-throughput test that can detect multiple variants of the SARS-CoV-2 virus in two-and-a-half hours, a major advance in tracking the virus and in treating patients. The test can detect the known UK, Brazil, and South African variants, as well as others containing the key E484K mutation, which are gaining prominence as the virus evolves
<https://www.hackensackmeridianhealth.org/press-releases/2021/04/01/hackensack-meridian-healths-center-for-discovery-and-innovation-develops-advanced-test-to-track-and-diagnose-covid-19-variants>

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
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

3. Testing Continued

[dor Exposed HCP.pdf](#)

- 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>

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)

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

- Issued 11/24/2020, guidance provided to ensure that the health, safety, and quality of life of nursing home residents is maintained during the holiday season. Residents who leave a facility must: 1) Quarantine or minimize contact to the extent safely possible prior to their return to the facility. 2) Quarantine on transmission-based precautions for 14 days upon return to the facility. 3) Test negative within 24 hours before returning to the facility. 4) Be tested at least three times during the 14-day quarantine period at the facility, including on the first day (upon return) and the last day that a resident must be quarantined
<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/11/nh-holiday-guidance-11-24-2020.pdf>
- Newly launched mobile contact tracing app, *COVID Alert NY*, is a voluntary, anonymous,

3. Testing Continued

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>

- 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
 - 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
- Released on November 10, 2020, Executive Order requires the operators and administrators of all nursing homes in New York State Department of Health designated red, yellow, and orange zones to test or make arrangements for the testing of all personnel, including all employees, contract staff, medical staff, operators and administrators, for COVID-19. Testing must occur twice per week in all nursing homes in these zones according to previously filed testing plans, until such time the facility is no longer in a designated red, orange or yellow zone, at which time the facility may revert back to once weekly testing

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/2020/11/dal_nh_20-16_testingandvisitationrequirementsinredorangeandyellowzones004.pdf

State of New York

- See this New York State website for a wide array of COVID-19 information and data, including a tracking dashboard, color zone maps, quarantine guidance, restrictions, travel guidelines and more

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>

North Carolina (NC)

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS)

- NCDHHS launched an online portal for primary care providers to request reimbursement for COVID-19-related costs for individuals without insurance

<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/news/press-releases/ncdhhs-launches-online-portal-reimburse-providers-treating-those-without-health>

State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

3. Testing Continued

- 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>
- 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>
- 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>
- 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>

Ohio (OH)

Office of the Governor Mike DeWine, Ohio Department of Health (ODH)

3. Testing Continued

- Governor DeWine announced a new order regarding the mandates on COVID-19 testing for employees at nursing homes and assisted living facilities in Ohio. Governor DeWine announced on May 3, 2021 that fully vaccinated employees of nursing homes and assisted living facilities are now exempt from normal routine COVID-19 testing at those facilities. Staff who are not fully vaccinated will have to continue to be tested twice a week
<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/resources/news-releases-news-you-can-use/covid-19-update-05-03-21>

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>

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>

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>

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 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>

Oregon (OR)

The Oregon Health Authority

- The Oregon Health Authority manages the COVID-19 response for the state and supports a hotline and several resources, dashboard views, FAQs and state reports

<https://govstatus.egov.com/OR-OHA-COVID-19>

Pennsylvania (PA)

Pennsylvania Department of Health

- On November 11, 2020, the Pennsylvania Department of Health released an updated PA-HAN - PAHAN-535, which outlines recommendations when evaluating patients for COVID-19. This updated guidance gives clinicians and health care providers current guidance on isolation for patients and providers being evaluated for COVID-19 to ensure that timely recommendations are provided to reduce spread of the disease. Included with this update is the COVID-19 Close Contact worksheet

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/prep/PA-HAN/Pages/2020-HAN.aspx>

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

South Carolina (SC)

Pruitt Health Corporation

- Pruitt Health Corporation added emergency preparedness information and data to its public website. The data include resident vaccination status, COVID-19 cases and resident testing results

<https://pruitthealth.com/emergency-preparedness>

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

- See the DHEC’s Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) website for current South Carolina COVID data as well as multiple links to relevant COVID-19 resource documents.

<https://scdhec.gov/covid19>

- Maintains a web page that provides state and federal resources and updates on changes to

3. Testing Continued

infection control policies and guidelines

<https://scdhec.gov/infectious-diseases/viruses/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/nursing-homes-covid-19>

South Dakota (SD)

Michael J Fitzmaurice South Dakota Veterans Home, Hot Springs, SD

- The maintenance and HVAC departments designed and constructed a negative pressure area for point of care testing adjacent to their employee entrance. This allows for safe swabbing in a convenient area upon employees entering the facility. The link below is an image of this swabbing station

<https://greatplainsqin.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/covid-testing-fitzmaurice-veterans-home.jpg>

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

Tennessee (TN)

Tennessee Department of Health

- Tennessee has released a new tool, the Quarantine and Isolation Calculator, that can help an individual determine the date for isolation and quarantine if exposed or received a positive test result

<https://covid19.tn.gov/prevention/quarantine-isolation-calculator>

The Middle Tennessee Regional Healthcare Quality Improvement Collaborative Communication Coalition

- The Middle Tennessee Regional Healthcare Quality Improvement Collaborative Communication Coalition 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 Alliant Health Solutions, Julie Clark, 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)

3. Testing Continued

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

Texas Health and Human Services Commission

- Texas is distributing test kits to certain nursing facilities located in counties where the COVID-19 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>
- Commissioner Dr. John Hellerstedt released a letter on November 12, 2020 stating: Beginning November 14, 2020, skilled nursing facilities, long term care facilities and intermediate care facilities who are currently submitting COVID-19 laboratory data into the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) should discontinue their direct reporting to Texas Department of State Health Services National Electronic Disease Surveillance System. Reporting through NHSN will fulfill the state reporting requirement for facilities actively entering into NHSN. It is important to note that facilities must continue to comply with their local health authority directive for reporting. Questions may be emailed here: COVID-19ELR@dshs.texas.gov
- The State of Texas is distributing a limited number of free BinaxNOW point of care antigen COVID-19 test kits under limited circumstances to certain nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, intermediate care facilities for individuals with an intellectual disability or related conditions, home and community-based services program providers, and home and community support services agencies in counties. Providers can request the free BinaxNOW point-of-care antigen COVID-19 test kits by filling out the attestation form. The attestation form includes instructions for requesting the free COVID-19 testing kits for each eligible provider type
<https://hhs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/services/health/coronavirus-covid-19/attestation-free-covid-19-test-kits.pdf>

Texas Health and Human Services Commission Long-term Care Regulation

- Texas Health and Human Services revises guidance allowing long-term care providers to use free COVID-19 POC antigen tests on anyone. The revised letter expands the ability of long-term care providers to use the requested free BinaxNOW COVID-19 point of care antigen test kits on anyone. Previously, the tests were allowed only for use on essential caregivers
<https://apps.hhs.texas.gov/providers/communications/2020/letters/PL2020-49.pdf>

Utah (UT)

State of Utah

- The State of Utah website clarifies how are rapid antigen tests may be used in long term care facilities. Rapid antigen tests have been validated for COVID-19 diagnostic testing, but not for

3. Testing Continued

COVID-19 screening. However, there are certain circumstances in which the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) allows antigen tests to be used for screening. This is referred to as “off-label” use. People who work or live in congregate care settings, like a long term care facility, may need frequent testing because of the high risk of COVID-19 spread in these environments. Repeated use of antigen testing may be a more time- and cost-effective strategy to control the spread of the virus in these settings

<https://coronavirus.utah.gov/long-term-care-facilities#mental-health-resources>

- 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
- On January 4, 2021, the state of Utah is offering free COVID-19 testing using the rapid antigen testing in many counties. New sites are targeted each week based on a number of surveillance data

[https://health.utah.gov/featured-news/free-covid-19-testing-expanded-across-utah#:~:text=\(Salt%20Lake%20City%2C%20UT\),throughout%20the%20state%20of%20Utah](https://health.utah.gov/featured-news/free-covid-19-testing-expanded-across-utah#:~:text=(Salt%20Lake%20City%2C%20UT),throughout%20the%20state%20of%20Utah)

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>

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

State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

3. Testing Continued

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>

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

- The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) has increased its capacity to identify new strains of COVID-19 using next-generation genome sequencing equipment. The goal is to test several thousand specimens a month at the Public Health Lab in Shoreline, Washington
<https://coronavirus.wa.gov/news/washington-state-department-health-provides-next-generation-genome-sequencing>

West Virginia (WV)

Genesis HealthCare

- To help patients and families be aware of current protocols at facilities, Genesis HCC has added buttons on each centers’ online information page that give users an at-a-glance status update on visitation and testing. The visitation button might say one of three things: compassionate care, outdoor and indoor. The testing button could say one of five things: monthly, every 2 weeks, weekly, twice weekly, and every 3-7 days. Users can learn more about the current visitation and testing statuses by clicking on the buttons. A general coronavirus update is at the beginning of each facilities’ page, which details current vaccination efforts. An example of the visitation and testing buttons can be found here
<https://www.genesishcc.com/dunbar>

Office of the Governor Jim Justice

- On Friday November 13, 2020, West Virginia’s Governor issued Executive Order 79-20 requiring all nursing home and assisted living staff to be tested twice a week. Per the order, all doctors, nurses, staff, and employees working in nursing homes and assisted livings throughout the state will need to be tested for COVID-19 twice a week until further notice
<https://governor.wv.gov/Documents/2020%20Executive%20Orders/EO%2079-20%20-%20Nursing%20Home%20and%20Assisted%20Living%20Testing.pdf>

Wisconsin (WI)

LeadingAge Wisconsin

- Updated their online batch entry spreadsheet, “Antigen Test Results Reporting,” to reflect edits that

State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

3. Testing Continued

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>
- Expanded information for providers on ordering/securing test supplies, process, and procedures
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/providers.htm>
- The State of Wisconsin and Vault Medical Services have teamed up to offer a new COVID-19 testing option for everyone who lives in Wisconsin, with or without symptoms, at no cost. This new service allows people to collect their own saliva samples for testing in their home. The capacity is expected to expand over time
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/collection.htm>

Wyoming (WY)

Wyoming Department of Health

- Wyoming offers free at-home COVID-19 testing through a company called Vault Health. These tests are available to Wyoming residents at no cost; insurance is not necessary. This saliva-based test does not require a nasal swab. The test uses high-quality laboratory technology for a high level of effectiveness. The sample collection process is performed under the supervision of a Vault health care provider through an online, video-based telehealth visit
<https://health.wyo.gov/publichealth/infectious-disease-epidemiology-unit/disease/novel-coronavirus/covid-19-at-home-testing>

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://tuscoosachamber.com/business-toolkit>

California (CA)

California Department of Public Health (CDPH)

- Recognizing the strain caused by staffing shortages in California due to a surge in COVID-19 cases, CDPH released All Facilities Letter (AFL) 21-07 on January 24, 2021, to notify all skilled nursing facilities that they can seek cost-sharing assistance and a state staffing contract to help increase staffing levels. The AFL provides a temporary waiver of staffing requirements; however, CDPH urges nursing homes that waivers should be the last resort and that diligent efforts to recruit and retain staff to return to the required staffing levels will be monitored by CDPH
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/AFL-21-07.aspx#>
- 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>

Colorado (CO)

Colorado Unified Coordination Center

- The Colorado Unified Coordination Center announced the activation of the Staffing Shortage Fusion Center. Organizations eligible for assistance include residential living facilities (such as homeless shelters, prisons, and correctional facilities), long term care facilities, and hospitals
<https://covid19.colorado.gov/press-release/state-of-colorado-creates-staffing-shortage-fusion-center-to-address-covid-19-needs>

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>

District of Columbia (DC)

Government of District of Columbia

State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

4. Workforce and Staffing Continued

- 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

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

Florida Health Care Association (FHCA)

- The Florida Health Care Association (FHCA) is sponsoring a long term care photo contest with a "Bright Spots During COVID" theme. Photos are sought that represent how staff and residents have stayed resilient throughout the COVID-19 pandemic with activities, virtual visits, community support, drive-by parades, and more. The contest is open to amateur photographers who live, work, or volunteer in an FHCA member skilled nursing center or assisted living facility or are employed by an FHCA member

https://www.fhca.org/media_center/photocontest

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
- Worked to get temporary nursing assistants (TNAs) during emergency to alleviate shortages of certified nursing assistants (CNAs)

4. Workforce and Staffing Continued

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>

Illinois Department of Aging

- The Illinois Department of Aging maintains a webpage with multiple links to IDoA COVID-19 Virtual Conferences of multiple relevant topics.
<https://www2.illinois.gov/aging/forprofessionals/Pages/QualityAssurance.aspx>

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>

LeadingAge

- LeadingAge recently released a new research report, Making Care Work Pay: How Paying at Least a Living Wage to Direct Care Workers Could Benefit Care Recipients, Workers and Communities
<https://leadingage.org/sites/default/files/Making%20Care%20Work%20Pay%20Report.pdf>

Indiana (IN)

Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH)

- On February 15, 2021, ISDH updated its quarantine guidelines based on vaccination status for long term care staff members per Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance. Quarantine guidelines are unchanged for vaccinated residents
https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19_Quarantine_Guidance_LTC_02.15.21.pdf
- 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 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

State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

4. Workforce and Staffing Continued

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
- 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>
- The Indiana Department of Health issued updated orders regarding waivers to reduce the number of CNA training hours with the addition of COVID-19 specific resident care procedures, provide a process for training Personal Care Attendants (PCAs) and Temporary Nurse Aides (TNAs) can be trained as CNAs, and authorize the training of PCAs and TNAs as CNAs in facilities that are subject to CNA training bans as long as the training is provided by an approved CNA training program
<https://www.ihca.org/resource/idh-issues-certified-nurse-aide-training-program-orders>
- Based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance with options to reduce time in quarantine, the Indiana Department of Health supports decreased (10 or 7 day depending on guidance) quarantine time for staff in facilities operating in a contingency or crisis staffing status
https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19%20Quarantine%20Guidance%20LTC%2012.8.20.pdf

Office of the Governor Eric Holcomb

- Executive Order 20-51 was released on December 23, 2020 to outline which health care professionals are considered “covered persons” to administer the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved COVID-19 vaccines. This executive order also extends the temporary licensing of health care workers by 90 days to meet the staffing needs of various health care providers in Indiana
https://www.in.gov/gov/files/Executive_Order_20-51_New_Directives-Renewal_of_Other_Directives.pdf
- Signed an executive order on September 29, 2020 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>
- Updated March 23, 2021 – Executive Order 21-07 Renewal of Directives Issued in Response to the COVID-19 Outbreak - This Executive Order extended the Temporary Licensing of Health Care Workers for 90 days. This allows additional staffing with retired health care professionals and students
<https://www.in.gov/gov/files/Executive-Order-21-07-Renewal-of-COVID-Directives.pdf>

Iowa (IA)

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

4. Workforce and Staffing Continued

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>

Kentucky (KY)

TEAM Kentucky

- On November 25, 2020, TEAM Kentucky released Contingency and Crisis Staffing Strategies for Health Care Facilities

<https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/covid19/ContingencyandCrisisStaffingStrategiesforHealthcareFacilities.pdf>

TEAM Kentucky (Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Kentucky Public Health)

- On November 25, 2020, TEAM Kentucky released Guidance for Health Care Personnel for Work while in Quarantine or Isolation

<https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/covid19/GuidanceforHealthcarePersonnelforWorkwhileinQuarantineorIsolation.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

- 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>

Louisiana Spirit

- Louisiana Spirit created a “Conquer COVID-19 Crisis Text Line – REACHOUT”. The Crisis Text Line provides free, 24/7 support via text message. It is designed to provide assistance and to reach people in their moments of crisis during the COVID-19 pandemic. Located on its website are digital assets, printable materials, and its Keep Calm Hotline number. When someone is in crisis, they can text REACHOUT to 741741 and they will be connected to a crisis counselor. The counselors are trained volunteers who—with the support of full-time crisis text line staff—use active listening, collaborative problem solving, and safety planning to help people in their moment of crisis

<https://conquercovid19.la>

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>

4. Workforce and Staffing Continued

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>

Maryland Department of Health

- Issued November 11, 2020, Health Care Worker Exemptions and Contingency Capacity Standards to Mitigate Health Care Staffing Shortages: Revised guidance for health care staff working if they have been advised to quarantine because of an exposure to COVID-19, allows health care facilities to conduct risk assessments and make decisions about whether specific asymptomatic staff who are quarantined because of household or other community exposures to a confirmed case may continue to work while quarantined. The work excuse letter provided by the Department of Health contact tracers during case investigations has been modified for cases who indicate they work in health care settings to reflect that although they have been advised to quarantine, they may follow the guidance of their employer regarding working during quarantine

<https://files.constantcontact.com/c16fad48501/eb16d55d-54a7-41ae-88ee-3848891ecb20.pdf>

Massachusetts (MA)

Betsy Lehman Center for Patient Safety

- The Betsy Lehman Center for Patient Safety is offering a free 6-week support group for nurses working with COVID-19 patients in any health care setting in Massachusetts. The Center is working with partners to explore ways to use or adapt peer support models to help frontline workers in all health settings given the stresses of their work during the pandemic

<https://betsylehmancenterma.gov/news/support-group-for-nurses-caring-for-covid-patients-to-start-next-month>

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

State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

4. Workforce and Staffing Continued

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
- 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>

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>

Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration

- The Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration updated the COVID-19 Emergency rules effective until October 14, 2021. Employers must continue to develop and implement COVID-19 plans, conduct surveillance activities, and safety precautions. New rules for vaccinated vs. unvaccinated staff regarding wearing masks unless in a health care setting, then mask requirements for all staff continue
https://www.michigan.gov/documents/leo/MIOSHA_COVID_Emergency_Rules_726100_7.pdf

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

4. Workforce and Staffing Continued

<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>

Minnesota Department of Health

- Health care workers living with a person suspected of having COVID-19, or who have been exposed to a patient, co-worker, or social contact with COVID-19, have expressed concerns regarding self-quarantine and exclusion from work. The Minnesota Department of Health and the health care community must balance workforce challenges with the need to prevent further spread of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19 in health care settings. See this 3/15/2021 guidance:

<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/RcMYbAt9S1DRYjBwB7c1H3gi0PHAg4AC#>

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)

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,

State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

4. Workforce and Staffing Continued

- 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
- 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>
- Updated on November 20 2020, to include Hospice services, 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%20\(Updated%2011.20.20\).pdf](http://dhhs.ne.gov/Medicaid%20Provider%20Bulletins/Provider%20Bulletin%2020-42%20(Updated%2011.20.20).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

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
- 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

- Facilities are expected to provide basic safety and infection orientation
- Facilities must document attempts to meet the staffing standards

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

4. Workforce and Staffing Continued

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 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 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)

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)

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

4. Workforce and Staffing Continued

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>

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>
 - 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

State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

4. Workforce and Staffing Continued

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>

Utah (UT)

Utah Department of Health

- COVID-19 put a serious strain on healthcare facilities, creating a medical surge and spurring a shortage in clinical staff in Utah and throughout the world. The Utah COVID-19 Unified Command, through the Utah Department of Health, has been working on clinical staffing mitigation strategies since April 2020 using the framework given to States by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Health and Human Services (HHS). They have developed many options to assist hospitals and long term care facilities experiencing clinical staffing shortages, including licensure flexibilities, recruitment efforts and volunteer programs
<https://coronavirus.utah.gov/clinical-staffing-support>

Virginia (VA)

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>

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)

State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

4. Workforce and Staffing Continued

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>

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>
- See this form for state reporting of Nursing Home Notification of Intent to Use Asymptomatic, COVID-19 Positive Staff
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/f-02734.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

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>

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

5. Cohorting Continued

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

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 Department of Health

- Updated January 14, 2021 – COVID-19 Toolkit for Long-Term Care Facility Staff - ISDH toolkit update highlights areas updated with the most current information available
https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19%20IP%20Toolkit%20ISDH_1.14.21.pdf
- New signage provided for nursing homes noting personal protective equipment (PPE) needed when aerosol-generating procedures (AGPs) are in progress
<https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/AGP%20IN%20PROGRESS.pdf>
- Updated zone signs for nursing homes to denote what personal protective equipment (PPE) is required for each zone
<https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/Stop%20Signs%203.31.21.pdf>

Massachusetts (MA)

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

State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

5. Cohorting Continued

- 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
<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem/seoc/Pages/default.aspx>
- 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
- Principles for COVID-19 Cohorting in Long Term Care
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/lcpcphohort.pdf>

Nebraska (NE)

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NDHHS)

- See this link for a library of NDHHS COVID-19 webinars, updated regularly
<https://icap.nebraskamed.com/covid-19-webinars>

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 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>

South Carolina (SC)

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC)

State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

5. Cohorting Continued

- 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

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>

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>

Florida (FL)

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)

Iowa Department of Public Health

- Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) summarizes their strike team and preparedness planning. Iowa’s four public health response teams assist local partners across Iowa in responding to public health emergencies. Members of each team are volunteers from health care institutions, local public health and environmental health agencies, county medical examiner’s offices, private industry, Office of the State Medical Examiner and IDPH staff. Iowa’s volunteer response partners have been an important part of the public health response system since the first team was established in 2003
<https://idph.iowa.gov/BETS/preparedness/ph-response>

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

Kentucky (KY)

Kentucky Health and Family Services Cabinet

- As mentioned on Kentucky.com, the Kentucky Health and Family Services Cabinet will utilize nurse strike teams that consist of two licensed nurses and four certified nurse assistants. Interim assignment is to achieve staffing stability equal to 3-7 days. The Cabinet uses an agency to hire those individuals, and the Emergency Preparedness Branch manages the logistics. The strike teams are mentioned near the end of this linked article about short staffing in Kentucky nursing homes
<https://www.kentucky.com/news/coronavirus/article246772222.html>

Michigan (MI)

Michigan Department of Health & Human Services

- The Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS) Infection Prevention Resource and Assessment Team (IPRAT) is a team of subject matter experts from the Communicable Disease Division. The IPRAT is a group that local health departments (LHDs) and/or long term care facilities (LTCs) can go to with questions about infection prevention, personal protective equipment (PPE), and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance interpretation. The onsite teams component of IPRAT uses a referral inbox to triage requests from organizations. The onsite teams consist of infection preventionists, data analysts, and a nurse. This team also uses proactive outreach to nursing homes in counties with widespread activity but who have reported 0-1 cases in the past four weeks
https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-71550_5104_55205_55207-528363--,00.html

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

Montana (MT)

Montana Department of Health and Human Services

- Governor Bullock established five strike teams made up of a certified nurse and National Guard

State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

6. Infection Control “Strike Teams” Continued

Members to be deployed across Montana to respond to COVID-19 cases in nursing homes and long term care facilities or to provide training and assistance with proper infectious disease control protocols as requested

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/aboutus/news/2020/frameworktorampuptestingcapacity>

Nebraska (NE)

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

- Facilities are to reach out to Nebraska Infection Control Assessment and Promotion Program (ICAP) and their local health departments if they identify a COVID-19 outbreak. ICAP will then assist the facilities with the implementation of the Red-Yellow-Green-Gray process. The survey agency team relies on ICAP to serve as their strike team

<https://icap.nebraskamed.com>

New Jersey (NJ)

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-19infectioncontrolguidanceguidancewebinarforhhsandacfs3-26-20.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

New York State Office of Information Technology Services

- In response to the COVID-19 crisis, New York State initiated a Technology SWAT Team led by the Office of Information Technology Services and Department of Financial Services to secure pro bono partnerships with the private sector to aid in the state’s response efforts. The Tech SWAT effort brought in private sector experts to work on critical projects, assist in building new applications, and train NY State employees on technical skills necessary for responding to the crisis. The Playbook provides recommendations and guidelines for any government entity that is standing up a similar effort and highlights challenges that government entities will want to consider when standing up and managing their SWAT teams

<https://www.ny.gov/sites/ny.gov/files/atoms/files/nys-tech-swat-playbook.pdf>

North Dakota (ND)

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

Oklahoma (OK)

Oklahoma State Department of Health

- The Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) COVID-19 Vaccination Plan includes deploying strike teams to ensure equitable distribution and attention is paid to successful administration of the vaccine to Oklahoma’s most vulnerable populations

https://coronavirus.health.ok.gov/sites/g/files/gmc786/f/state_of_oklahoma_covid-19_vaccination_plan.pdf

South Dakota (SD)

South Dakota Department of Health

- On November 3, 2020, the South Dakota Department of Health published its COVID-19 Vaccination Plan. The plan includes vaccination strike teams, Points of Dispensing (PODs), and mobile vaccination units for broad access to the COVID-19 vaccine

https://doh.sd.gov/documents/COVID19/SD_COVID-19VaccinationPlan.pdf

Texas (TX)

Texas Health and Human Services Commission

- The Rapid Assessment Quick Response Force (RA-QRF) team provides initial triage, site assessment, reviews of the facility’s policies and procedures, personal protective equipment (PPE), and infection control guidelines, and provides recommendations to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. A facility can request their assistance if they are facing issues with any infection prevention and control. To activate RA-QRF team assistance, facilities should contact the long term care regulation (LTCR) associate commissioner at

Michelle.dionne-vahalik@hhsc.state.tx.us

Utah (UT)

State of Utah

- Utah has created a number of medical strike teams working to stop the spread of COVID-19. Strike teams have been deployed to various care facilities across the state. Not all deployments resulted in drastic response to COVID-19 but served as a way to educate and guide the facilities to be prepared. The teams all operate under the Utah health emergency response team (UHERT) which falls under the bureau of emergency medical service and preparedness. UHERT has taken on responsibility to ensure the Expo Center is ready for patients if the need arises <https://bemsp.utah.gov/operations-and-response/response-resources/healthmedical-logistics>

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-v-a-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

Arizona (AZ)

Arizona Health Care Association

- The Arizona Health Care Association's Disaster Ready Emergency Preparedness Infection Control (EPIC) program created "Top 10 Survey Deficiency Tip Sheets" to support nursing home infection control programs and COVID-19 mitigation efforts. The EPIC team analyzed infection control issues identified in nursing home state surveys to create the tip sheets, which include the associated regulation, examples of deficiencies cited, corrective actions and best practice recommendations, and additional resources. The 10 topics include: personal protective equipment (PPE), infection control precautions, housekeeping/laundry, tuberculosis, isolation precautions, hand hygiene, disinfecting common equipment, water management, social distancing, and visitor and staff screening
<https://epic.disasterreadyaz.org/clinical-regulatory/tip-sheet>

California (CA)

California Department of Public Health

- Effective January 1, 2021, Assembly Bill 2644 requires all California skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) to have a full-time infection preventionist (IP) on staff. Per the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) All Facilities Letter 20-85, the role of the IP may be shared by two staff members if the total time dedicated to the infection preventionist role is equivalent to one full-time staff member. CDPH also specified in AFL 20-84 that 10 hours of IP training and education are required each year. To assist SNFs in meeting the annual educational requirement, CDPH launched a 22-module, self-directed infection preventionist training course
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/AFL-20-84.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

State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response
7. Infection Control Surveys and Other State Survey Activity

Survey

<https://www.hsag.com/en/covid-19/long-term-care-facilities/cms-covid-19-focused-survey-for-nhs>

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)

Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH)

- ISDH announced on February 12, 2021 that standard recertification surveys and life safety code surveys for comprehensive care facilities will resume on April 12, 2021
<https://www.in.gov/isdh/files/LTC%20Newsletter%202021-08%20-%20Web.pdf>
- ISDH will continue the scheduling of clinical nurse observers in long term care facilities through February 2021
<https://www.ihca.org/resource/idh-covid-19-clinical-nurse-observers-extended-through-february-2021>

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

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

South Carolina (SC)

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC)

State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response
7. Infection Control Surveys and Other State Survey Activity

- 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>
- 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 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>
- Emergency Rules for Nursing Facility Providers Extended - Emergency rules related to COVID-19 mitigation and response in nursing facilities that were scheduled to expire on December 4, 2020 have been extended. The extension took effect on December 4, 2020 and will expire on February 1, 2021
<https://hhs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/doing-business-with-hhs/provider-portal/long-term-care/nf/nursing-facility-covid-19-response-emergency-rule.pdf>
<https://hhs.texas.gov/about-hhs/communications-events/news/2020/12/emergency-rules-nf-providers-extended#:~:text=Emergency%20rules%20related%20to%20COVID,expire%20on%20February%201%2C%202021>

State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response
7. Infection Control Surveys and Other State Survey Activity

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>
- Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) published Flu Vaccine Guidance during COVID-19 (PL 20-50). The letter provides a brief overview of the Adult Influenza Vaccine Initiative and guidance on the administration of the influenza vaccine to residents and staff with and without COVID-19. The letter also informs facilities when an individual should receive the influenza vaccine, even if the facility is not the vaccine administrator
<https://apps.hhs.texas.gov/providers/communications/2020/letters/PL2020-50.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

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
 - 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 Department of Public Health (ADPH)

- ADPH has created the Alabama Emergency Response Technology (ALERT) to push health alert network (HAN) messages via email to health care providers statewide. ALERT HAN and Federal Drug Administration (FDA) messages are intended to keep health care providers updated on new or emerging health care-related situations. ADPH will also send out the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) HAN messages using ALERT
<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/bcd/han-messages.html>

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 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

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

State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

8.. Nursing Home (NH) Communications Continued

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>

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

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)

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

- The Residential Care Strike Team is committed to helping residential care facilities provide safe care in the least restrictive way possible and recognizes that the mental health of residents is equally as important as their physical health

<https://cdphe.colorado.gov/health-facility-covid-19-response/residential-care-strike-team>

- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Residential Care Facility Mitigation Guidance document has been restored and is now available on the Long-term and Residential Care Facilities webpage. The document provides guidance to residential care facilities responding to cases of COVID-19 (staff or residents) and the recommendations to prevent transmission within the facility. This document is not intended to replace existing guidance but serves as a single document to assist Residential Care Facilities in mitigation, incorporating all existing guidance in one place.

<https://covid19.colorado.gov/ltrcf>

Delaware (DE)

Delaware Health Care Facilities Association (DHCFA)

State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

8.. Nursing Home (NH) Communications Continued

- 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>

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

Florida Health Care Association (FHCA)

- The Florida Health Care Association (FHCA) is sponsoring a long term care photo contest with a “Bright Spots During COVID” theme. Photos are sought that represent how staff and residents have stayed resilient throughout the COVID-19 pandemic with activities, virtual visits, community support, drive-by parades, and more. The contest is open to amateur photographers who live, work, or volunteer in an FHCA member skilled nursing center or assisted living facility or are employed by an FHCA member
https://www.fhca.org/media_center/photocontest
- 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
https://www.fhca.org/media_center/healthcare_heroes_stories_of_care
- The FHCA 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
- The FHCA 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

State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

8.. Nursing Home (NH) Communications Continued

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

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>
- 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>

Georgia Department of Public Health

- The Georgia Department of Public Health has updated its Administrative Order for long term care communities as of April 7, 2021
<https://dph.georgia.gov/document/administrative-order/long-term-care-facility-administrative-order-updated-472021/download>

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

State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

8.. Nursing Home (NH) Communications Continued

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>
- Illinois Department of Public Health has adopted an emergency rule requiring all frontline clinical staff and management at long term care (LTC) facilities to complete the free training provided by Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for COVID-19. By December 31, 2020, all LTC facilities, as defined under the Nursing Home Care Act, shall have achieved at least 50% completion of the CMS training frontline clinical staff and management. By January 31, 2021, all frontline clinical staff and management shall have completed the CMS training
<https://www.chicagohan.org/documents/14171/322208/CMS+Targeted+COVID-19+Training+Mandated+Letter.pdf/9978b99e-e28e-d34d-648f-f52b9dd259ed?t=1607550251103#:~:text=Therefore%2C%20the%20IDPH%20is%20adopting,free%20training%20provided%20by%20CMS.&text=By%20January%2031%2C%202021%2C%20all,have%20completed%20the%20CMS%20training>

Indiana (IN)

Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH)

- 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>
- Issued March 15, 2021, the Indiana Department of Health updated communication guidelines to require long-term care facilities to transmit the facility emergency transfer form to the local ombudsman on a monthly basis instead of weekly
https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19_comm%20guidelines%203.15.21.pdf
- Communication Guidelines now require long-term care facilities to issue cumulative COVID-19 updates to residents and designated representatives on a weekly basis rather than a daily basis. However, when a new confirmed COVID-19 infection is identified, or when three or more residents or staff with new onset of respiratory systems occur within 72 hours of each other, the facility must communicate the new case(s) to residents and their designated representatives by the next calendar day
https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19_comm%20guidelines%203.15.21.pdf

State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

8.. Nursing Home (NH) Communications Continued

Office of the Governor Eric Holcomb

- On January 28, 2021, Governor Eric Holcomb extended the public health emergency status in Indiana through at least March 1, 2021. This also extends emergency orders and waivers until that time
<https://www.in.gov/gov/files/Executive-Order-21-03-Eleventh-Renewal-of-Emergency-Declaration.pdf>

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)

- 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-guide-for-covid-19.pdf?sfvrsn=8af002ee_0

State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response
8.. Nursing Home (NH) Communications Continued

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>
- On November 16, 2020, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services provided updated guidance on the phased reduction of restrictions for long term care facilities. This included links to the two (normalized at 100k population) incidence maps in play (one for testing frequency updated bi-weekly and one for visitation to be checked weekly)
<https://chfs.ky.gov/cv19/LTCFGuidancePhasedRestoration.pdf>

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)

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,

State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

8.. Nursing Home (NH) Communications Continued

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

- 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/lcwindows.pdf>
- Outdoor visitation guidance for long term care facilities
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/lcdoor.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/lccaregiver.pdf>
- On January 25, 2021, the Minnesota Department of Health released long term Care guidance for non-medically necessary outings. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the

State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

8.. Nursing Home (NH) Communications Continued

Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) recommend people at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19 avoid in-person gatherings with anyone who does not live with them

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/ltceoguide.html>

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>

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (MDHSS)

- 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>

- Issued November 17, 2020, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) issued Guidance for Long Term Care Facilities and Beauty/Barber Shop Services for Residents. The guidance is for facilities to utilize in making decisions about resuming beauty/barber shop services

<https://nursinghomehelp.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Beauty-and-Barber-Shop-Services-Memo-11-17-20.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>

Montana (MT)

State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

8.. Nursing Home (NH) Communications Continued

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

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

- Provider Bulletin 20-44: Kepro is Nebraska's new Preadmission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR) vendor. Beginning January 1, 2021, PASRR Level I screenings and Level II PASRR evaluations and determinations must be completed in Kepro's online provider portal
<http://dhhs.ne.gov/Medicaid%20Provider%20Bulletins/Provider%20Bulletin%2020-44.pdf>
- Nursing Homes can complete a survey for New COVID-19 Cases Eligible to Receive Bamlanivimab
<https://asap.nebraskamed.com/monoclonal-antibody-project>
- Proposed Regulations - Public Hearing to be held on April 19, 2021 on Title 471 NAC 12 - Nursing Facility Regulations and Title 471 NAC 44 - Nursing Facility Level of Care Determination for Adults. The adoption of this new chapter will clarify and align the language in the regulations with the new assessment tool used in nursing facility level of care determinations for adults age 18 or older. It will also update definitions; specify how information about limitations in activities of daily living is obtained; clarify what are considered risk factors and limitations on cognitive functioning; and update the requirements for level of care determinations
<https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Upcoming-Public-Hearings.aspx>
- Civil Money Penalty (CMP) Fund Frequently Asked Questions is now available
<https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Medicaid-CMP-Program.aspx>
- New Guidance on COVID-19 Vaccine Payment with updated rates for COVID-19 vaccine administration and to update Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) and Rural Health Clinic (RHC) providers on the procedure for billing for administering a COVID-19 vaccine
<https://dhhs.ne.gov/Medicaid%20Provider%20Bulletins/Provider%20Bulletin%2021-06.pdf>

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services - Medicaid

- 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

Nevada Department of Health and Human Services

State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

8.. Nursing Home (NH) Communications Continued

- The Nevada Department of Health and Human Service hot line for concerns about COVID-19 in a skilled nursing facility, call 1-800-225-3414. This phone line will be answered as staff are available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If no answer, leave a message and calls will be returned within 24-48 hours

http://dpbh.nv.gov/Reg/HealthFacilities/HF-Medical/Facility_for_Skilled_Nursing

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 symptoms and potentially related exposure

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 (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
- 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)

- 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>

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
- On October 27, 2020, NCDHHS provided an update to the COVID-19 guidance for North Carolina clinicians and laboratories which includes:
 - Updated information and guidance on social gatherings
 - Updated information on who should be tested for COVID-19
 - Updated information on assessment of patients with acute respiratory illness symptoms when SARSCoV-2 and influenza viruses are both circulating
<https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/guidance/healthcare/COVID-19-Provider-Guidance-Final.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

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)

State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

8.. Nursing Home (NH) Communications Continued

- 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>

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 Hospital Association (OHA)

- 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 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%](https://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/Documents/Pubs/Special/COVID19Resources/Temporary%20Expanded%20Multi-Dose%20Packaged%20Prescriptions.pdf)

[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 Department of Human Services

- The Oregon Department of Human Services requires long-term care facilities in the state to take extra precautions to prevent illness during the pandemic. Facilities with a staff member or resident with a reported or suspected case of COVID-19 must post a restriction of admission sign at the entrance and exits. The sign states that the Oregon Department of Human Services is monitoring the facility for exposure to the virus
<https://www.oregon.gov/dhs/COVID-19/Pages/LTC-Facilities.aspx>

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/DISEASESCONDITIONS/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)

State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

8.. Nursing Home (NH) Communications Continued

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>
- On November 19, 2020, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) issued guidelines for residents leaving long term care facilities for holidays. DHEC strongly recommends that long term care facilities establish a policy addressing leave of absence for residents during the holidays
<https://scdhec.gov/sites/default/files/media/document/COVID19-Holiday-Resident-Memo.pdf>

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>

Rolling Hills Healthcare

- This nursing home communicates with its staff which residents have not tested positive for COVID-19 by printing off a "Golden Ticket" sign that alerts them to take extra precautions in resident care
<https://greatplainsqn.org/blog/golden-ticket-a-best-practice-at-rolling-hills-healthcare-in-belle-fourche-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

Tennessee (TN)

Tennessee Department of Health

- The Weekly Long Term Facility COVID-19 Update Call is held every Wednesday at 11:00 CT/Noon ET. It includes updates on outbreak numbers, reporting-testing updates, available resources, and a Q&A section
<https://tngov.webex.com/webappng/sites/tngov/meeting/download/93a8c91dda8e4cd38ddeb3eebc61618f?siteurl=tngov&MTID=m7ff6bbba2d9c9a0e27657ec4cde4f009>

Texas (TX)

Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)

- Emergency Rules for Nursing Facility Providers Extended - Emergency rules related to COVID-19 mitigation and response in nursing facilities that were scheduled to expire on December 4, 2020 have been extended. The extension took effect on December 4, 2020 and will expire on February 1, 2021
<https://hhs.texas.gov/about-hhs/communications-events/news/2020/12/emergency-rules-nf-providers->

[extended#:~:text=Emergency%20rules%20related%20to%20COVID,expire%20on%20February%201%2C%202021](#)

- Updated COVID-19 Response Plan for Nursing Facilities [Version 3.7], published December 16, 2020. This document provides guidance to Nursing Facilities on Response Actions in the event of a COVID-19 exposure
<https://hhs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/doing-business-with-hhs/provider-portal/long-term-care/nf/covid-response-nursing-facilities.pdf>
- Texas Department of State Health Services COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) is updated regularly
<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine-faqs.aspx>

Texas Health and Human Services Commission

- The Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) related to COVID-19 Vaccine Billing is only applicable to facilities that have chosen to be COVID-19 vaccine providers, not facilities that received vaccinations via a pharmacy or other health care institution
<https://hhs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/doing-business-with-hhs/provider-portal/long-term-care/nf/covid-19-vaccine-billing-faqs.pdf>
- 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 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>
- Texas Health and Human Services Commission Long-term Care Regulation has updated the frequently asked questions regarding the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services COVID-19 testing requirements. The update includes a clarification on testing requirements for non-emergency medical transport personnel
<https://hhs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/services/health/coronavirus-covid-19/nf-cms-mandated-covid-testing-faqs.pdf>

[cms-mandated-covid-testing-faqs.pdf](#)

- Nursing Facilities COVID-19 Expanded Visitation Emergency Rules Extended. The rule was set to expire on January 22, 2021. The extension took effect on January 22 and will expire on March 22, 2021
<https://hhs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/doing-business-with-hhs/provider-portal/long-term-care/nf/nf-covid-19-expansion-reopening-visitation-emergency-rule.pdf>
- Long-Term Care Facilities Council Issues First Report. The council was to study and make recommendations for nursing facilities, assisted living facilities and intermediate care facilities for individuals with an intellectual disability or related condition
<https://hhs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/laws-regulations/reports-presentations/2021/sb-1519-ltc-facilities-council-report-jan-2021.pdf>
- Texas Health and Human Services Commission Issues Updated Nursing Facilities COVID-19 Mitigation and Response Emergency Rules, requiring actions by nursing facilities to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The rule became effective Feb. 2, 2021
<https://hhs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/doing-business-with-hhs/provider-portal/long-term-care/nf/nursing-facility-covid-19-response-emergency-rule.pdf>
- State Infusion Hotline Now Active to Request Monoclonal Antibodies. Texas Health and Human Services Commission Long-term Care Regulation and the Department of State Health Services are encouraging long-term care providers to contact the State Infusion Hotline at 1-800-742-5990 to request infusions of monoclonal antibodies and a medical team at their facility. Long-term care providers set up to provide infusions may also request immediate delivery of monoclonal antibody therapeutics to their facility
<https://hhs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/doing-business-with-hhs/provider-portal/long-term-care/nf/how-request-monoclonal-anitbodies.pdf>
- On January 27, 2021, Texas Health and Human Services Commission published an update for the Nursing Facilities COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions. Updates include: adds information related to the CDC's shortened quarantine options; clarifies quarantine protocol for those who have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 90 days, and have fully recovered; clarifies that COVID-19 screenings may happen just inside a facility; adds information related to guidance for antigen tests and when a confirmatory PCR test is needed
<https://hhs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/doing-business-with-hhs/provider-portal/long-term-care/nf/coronavirus-nursing-facility-frequently-asked-questions.pdf>
- Texas Health and Human Services Commission has updated the COVID-19 Response for Nursing Facilities to Version 3.8, effective Feb. 2, 2021. Updates include: additional information related to CDC reduced quarantine guidance; TB screening guidance for staff and residents; COVID-19 and Waste Disposal; guidance for use of antigen tests on asymptomatic staff and residents (such as during an outbreak response)
<https://hhs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/doing-business-with-hhs/provider-portal/long-term-care/nf/covid-response-nursing-facilities.pdf>
- The State of Texas is distributing a limited number of free BinaxNOW point of care antigen COVID-19 test kits under limited circumstances to certain nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, intermediate care facilities for individuals with an intellectual disability or related conditions, home and community-based services program providers, and home and community support services agencies in counties. Providers can request the free BinaxNOW point-of-care antigen COVID-19 test kits by filling out the attestation form. The attestation form includes instructions for requesting the free COVID-19 testing kits for each eligible provider type
<https://hhs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/services/health/coronavirus-covid->

State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

8.. Nursing Home (NH) Communications Continued

[19/attestation-free-covid-19-test-kits.pdf](#)

- Suspension of Deallocation of Nursing Facilities Medicaid Beds Due to COVID-19 Continues for 2021, due to the impact COVID-19 has had on Texas nursing facilities
<https://hhs.texas.gov/about-hhs/communications-events/news/2021/03/suspension-deallocation-nf-medicaid-beds-due-covid-19-continues>

Texas Health and Human Services Commission Long-term Care Regulation

- Texas Health and Human Services revises guidance allowing long-term care providers to use free COVID-19 POC antigen tests on anyone. The revised letter expands the ability of long-term care providers to use the requested free BinaxNOW COVID-19 point of care antigen test kits on anyone. Previously, the tests were allowed only for use on essential caregivers
<https://apps.hhs.texas.gov/providers/communications/2020/letters/PL2020-49.pdf>
- The Joint Training Program of Long-Term Care Regulation is revising its training academy for directors of nursing (DONs). DONs of all experience levels are invited to complete a brief survey to identify training needs from your perspective. The survey is open until April 30, 2021
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YV5S5MS>

Texas Health and Human Services Commission, Department of State Health Services

- The Long-Term Care Options for COVID-19 Vaccination resource document provides COVID-19 vaccination options for nursing facilities; assisted living facilities; state supported living centers; community-based intermediate care facilities regardless of size for individuals with an intellectual disability or related condition; and small group home residence settings (three- and four- person residences) that are owned and operated by certified home and community-based services Medicaid waiver program providers
<https://hhs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/services/health/coronavirus-covid-19/ltc-covid-vaccine-options.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)

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

State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

8.. Nursing Home (NH) Communications Continued

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>

West Virginia (WV)

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>

9. PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE): ACTIONS TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO PPE

Alabama (AL)

Office of the Governor Kay Ivey

- On January 21, 2021, the Safer at Home Order that includes a statewide mask requirement was extended. Individuals are required to wear a mask or other facial covering when in public and in close contact with other people, as described in the order. This order extends until March 5, 2021
<https://governor.alabama.gov/assets/2021/01/GKI-Health-Order-Update-03.05.21-Horizontal.pdf>

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>

California Department of Public Health, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services

State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

9. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Actions to Improve Access to PPE Continued

- In April 2021, the California Department of Public Health released All Facilities Letter (AFL) 21-13 notifying skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) of personal protective equipment (PPE) push pack distribution. Beginning May 3, 2021, the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) began distributing a new round of PPE push packs to SNFs as part of California's continued effort to provide necessary supplies to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and help ensure the health and safety of SNF residents and staff
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/AFL-21-13.aspx>

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>

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 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 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>

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>

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
- Guidelines were updated to add use of Transmission Based Precaution PPE for the duration of Aerosol Generating Procedures including CPAP/BIPAP/Nebulizer and post procedure for one hour. Updated eye protection for use in moderate to substantial transmission based on county positivity rates, outbreak testing, and continued use in any type of Contact-Droplet Transmission Based Precautions for COVID-19, suspected and confirmed

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%20LTC%20SOP%20checklist%2003.31.21.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
- 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 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

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)

Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services

- The Department has developed the Missouri COVID-19 Supply Solution Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Marketplace to engage medical equipment manufacturers and distributors to open new supply chains for PPE and other critical medical supplies
<https://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/novel-coronavirus/ppe.php>

State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA)

State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

9. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Actions to Improve Access to PPE Continued

- Nursing homes experiencing a shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE) can contact SEMA to obtain immediate short term PPE supplies

Montana (MT)

Montana Department of Health and Human Services

- The State Disaster & Emergency Services (DES) has extra gowns and masks for providers. If your center is in need, please use the link below to order. This resource was very timely given that long term care facilities have new CDC guidelines for PPE and caring for those with COVID-19
https://dmades.formstack.com/forms/des_medical_supply_request

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/COVIDPPPEM>

New Jersey (NJ)

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

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-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 Oklahoma Commissioner of Health authorized the substitution of KN95 masks per Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) guidelines. Physicians from the University of Oklahoma College of Public Health have performed filtering tests on sample masks received. If the masks do not meet minimum filtration standards, they are not distributed to health care workers and first responders
<https://oklahoma.gov/covid19/what-you-should-know/kn95s.html>
- 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)

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

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
<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 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 Alliant Health Solutions, Julie Clark, julie.clark@allianthealth.org, is available to assist on connection with this coalition

Texas (TX)

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

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>

Office of the Governor Kay Ivey, Alabama Nursing Home Association, Alabama Hospital Association

- Alabama’s Nursing Homes and Hospitals Urge Mask Usage. While Alabama’s mask mandate is set to expire Friday, April 9, the Alabama Nursing Home Association and the Alabama Hospital Association are joining the Governor and others in calling on Alabamians to continue wearing masks to help the state sustain its progress in fighting COVID-19

<https://anha.org/alabamas-nursing-homes-and-hospitals-urge-mask-usage-issue-reminders-on-visitation>

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.

State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

10. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Actions to Improve Utilization of PPE Continued

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
- 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

10. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Actions to Improve Utilization of PPE Continued

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 created an infographic designed to help explain when and what Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is necessary when interacting with a person who is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19. These guidelines show the “Preferred PPE” but can be modified based on what PPE is available

<https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1174/PPE-Cheat-Sheet-PDF---10-29-20?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

- Governor Beshear announced updated public health restrictions would start Monday, December 14, 2020. As of December 10, 2020, Kentucky positivity rates declined for the seventh straight day

<https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=GovernorBeshear&prId=505>

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 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=l6JqZyu9du4>

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>
- The Minnesota Department of Health released COVID-19 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) grid for Congregate Care Settings
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/ep/surge/crisis/ppegrid.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>

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

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>
- NCDHHS partnered with four Latin American sports figures to increase awareness of wearing a mask to slow the spread of COVID-19
<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/news/press-releases/ncdhhs-partners-latin-american-sports-figures-increase-awareness-wearing-mask>

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)[™], which is being used to perform decontamination of the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-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>

State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

10. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Actions to Improve Utilization of PPE Continued

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

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
https://www.train.org/virginia/course/1046592/live_event
- Released 12/21/2020, Virginia Department of Health created a guide, “Considerations for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Cohorting during COVID-19 Response in Long-Term Care”. This guide crosswalks indications for PPE when there is no COVID-19 outbreak and during COVID-19 outbreaks. It also provides guidance for designating hot, warm and cold units during a COVID-19 outbreak
<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/182/2020/12/PPE-Chart.pdf>

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

- The Virginia Department of General Services developed an online listing of emergency vendors

State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

10. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Actions to Improve Utilization of PPE Continued

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>

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>
- 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

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

Mississippi (MS)

State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

11. Housing and Sheltering Continued

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

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
 - 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.hcdnj.org/coronavirusresources#homeless>

New Mexico (NM)

State Actions for COVID-19 Management and Response

11. Housing and Sheltering Continued

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>

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://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx>