

# Nursing Home Weekly: Recap of LeadingAge Updates

July 18, 2020

**New CDC Guidance** - On July 18, the CDC published new guidance, based on evolving research, in three areas. They indicate that many people have prolonged viral shedding, thus will test positive, long after they are no longer contagious; thus a testing based strategy is of limited utility for deciding when people can return to work and for deciding when to discontinue transmission based precautions for new and existing residents.

***Duration of Isolation and Precautions for Adults with COVID-19*** -

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/duration-isolation.html>

***Discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions and Disposition of Patients with COVID-19 in Healthcare Settings (Interim Guidance)***: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/disposition-hospitalized-patients.html>

***Criteria for Return to Work for Healthcare Personnel with SARS-CoV-2 Infection (Interim Guidance)***: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/return-to-work.html>

**HHS Testing Announcement** - This week HHS announced plans to supply a new, rapid point-of-care testing system to nursing homes. The plan is to supply testing instruments and tests to all nursing homes in the country, beginning with 2,000 going out as early as next week to nursing homes prioritized by CMS. These prioritized nursing homes will be in current “hot spots”. The rest of these allocations will be received in the following weeks. HHS states that this is a one-time procurement meant to augment current testing capacity. Once a provider runs out of the government-provided supplies, they can purchase additional supplies directly from the manufacturer. There are still many questions about this antigen testing approach. Due to a reported 15-20% likelihood of false negative results, several states do not accept the reporting of these results. Here is an article with the information LeadingAge currently has regarding the HHS testing plan. [https://www.leadingage.org/regulation/hhs-send-rapid-point-care-testing-nursing-homes?\\_ga=2.242244608.385647244.1594752214-958134098.1594752214](https://www.leadingage.org/regulation/hhs-send-rapid-point-care-testing-nursing-homes?_ga=2.242244608.385647244.1594752214-958134098.1594752214)

**Deadline for Provider Relief Funds extended** - The deadline for Medicaid providers to apply for the CARES Act Provider Relief Funds has been extended to August 3. For more information on applying, providers can check out the LeadingAge Provider Relief Fund [Explainer](#) and HHS resources on CARES Act Provider Relief Fund [website](#) including their [FAQs](#), which have two sections on the Medicaid Distribution and the corresponding Enhanced Provider Relief Fund Payment Portal, through which providers will apply.

**Cost report deadlines extended** - On pg. 94-95 of this updated [FAQ](#), CMS announced extensions to cost report deadlines for all provider types.

- CMS will delay the filing deadline of the FYE 12/31/2019 cost reports until August 31, 2020.
- For the FYE 01/31/2020 cost report, the extended due date is August 31, 2020.
- For the FYE 02/29/2020 cost report, the extended due date is September 30, 2020.

**New CMS initiative investigating COVID-19 surges** - CMS is spearheading a new initiative to work directly with nursing homes that are reporting significant spikes in COVID-19 cases. Representatives from CMS, along with representatives from CDC and public health service, will visit 18 nursing homes across several states beginning July 18 to explore issues. The visits are not surveys, though if any

significant issues are identified, such as an immediate jeopardy situation, a referral will be made to the state survey agency.

**Nursing homes without CLIA waivers** – LeadingAge received a [state listing of all nursing homes that do not have CLIA waivers](#) from CMS. CMS requests that the nursing homes apply for the CLIA waiver as soon as possible. Here is the link to obtain a CLIA waiver - <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/CLIA/Downloads/HowObtainCertificateofWaiver.pdf>

**SNF Quality Reporting Program Non-compliance Notices Issued, Reconsiderations due Aug 18 and Quality Reporting Required Again:** CMS has sent notices to SNFs if they are considered non-compliant with the SNF Quality Reporting program. If providers receiving this notice take no action, they will have their Medicare FFS rates reduced 2% beginning October 1. If providers wish to seek reconsideration of this status, they must submit this information via email to CMS by August 18. There is a link to the details of this process and information on the restart of QRP data reporting in the article we posted on this on our website at:

<https://leadingage.org/regulation/snf-grp-non-compliance-notices-available-reconsideration-requests-due-aug-18>

**QuickCast on dining services** – a new QuickCast was released on [Preparing to Resume Dining Services in Life Plan Communities](#). The QuickCast features Dee reviewing guidance issued to the food service industry by FDA and CDC, and walks providers through direct applications to our field. The QuickCast is free and available now on the Hub.

**State by state guidance on visitation** - As of today, three more states have been added to the review of States' Guidance on Visitation to [Assisted Living](#) and [Nursing Homes](#). We have also posted a [Visitor Preparation Information Sheet](#) that we will keep updated; tomorrow, there will also be an update to the review of all states' visitation language for AL and SNF. We update these resources roughly twice a week, as states add or change guidance.

**New NGA Resources on State LTC Strategies** – LeadingAge and others met with aging/LTC colleagues at the National Governors Association. NGA shared some new resources. Their description: “To mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and protect high-risk communities, targeted approaches for post-acute and long-term care facilities such as nursing homes and assisted living as well as in-home and community settings are critical. NGA released an updated [memo](#) and [table](#) of state actions summarizing COVID-19 response strategies for populations receiving long-term care. NGA also released a [briefing](#) on COVID-19 testing in long-term care facilities.”

**Act for Older Adults Hill Briefing** – LeadingAge is holding an Act for Older Adults Act for Older Adults briefing for Senate and House staff on July 21 at 12noon EST. Congress will be in the final weeks of deciding on the scope of its next COVID-19 relief package. The Senate and House have a chance to deliver the action and resources that are desperately needed by aging services providers like nursing homes, home and community based care, and affordable senior housing providers. At this briefing, Hill staff will hear the latest on the testing, PPE, and financial relief needed in the next COVID-19 relief package.