



Visit our COVID-19 Page Here

Dear Member:

Changes to the CDC/DHHS Calls beginning July 13, 2020

The Maine CDC Monday All Healthcare Provider call that was scheduled from 1:00-2:00 pm has been cancelled indefinitely. Director Shah will continue to provide a media update at 2:00 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays, which will contain any new information regarding COVID-19 and the status of the work of the Maine CDC and Maine DHHS.

In addition, the Tuesday Interactive Web Sessions for LTC Medical Directors, Directors of Nursing, and Other Clinicians call facilitated by Lisa Letourneau will now be held on the first and third Tuesday of each month between 11:00-12:00pm. The call with Rita Owsiak from the Maine CDC will continue to occur weekly on Wednesday afternoons beginning at 1:00pm. Below is the relevant information for the remaining calls:

Tues. 11:00-12:00; Occurring the FIRST and THIRD week of each month.

Call for LTC MDs, DON, and Other Clinicians, DHHS/CDC

<https://zoom.us/j/6218434986?pwd=dEJoNEVRSkVSN2dwZlJ5WEI3WjJsZz09>

Meeting ID: 621 843 4986; Password: 338847

Wednesdays 1:00 p.m. Occurring WEEKLY

Call with Rita Owsiak, Healthcare-Associated Infection Coordinator, CDC

<https://zoom.us/j/529438381>

646.558.8656, Meeting ID: 529 438 381

Please note these changes on your calendar.

MHCA in the News

MHCA President and CEO Rick Erb was interviewed this week by WMTW, Channel 8 Portland and WABI, Channel 7 Bangor for news stories on the new White House Coronavirus Commission for Safety and Quality in Nursing Homes. The commission, which includes 25 stakeholders, including Debra Fournier, Chief Operating Officer of Maine Veteran's Home, is tasked with reviewing nursing homes' response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It will also make recommendations for new regulations and procedures for future emergency situations. Read the stories here: [independent-commission-reviewing-pandemic-response-in-maine-nursing-homes](#) and [nursing-homes-covid-19-response-performance-in-review](#)

Governor Mills Renews State of Civil Emergency and Strengthens Enforcement of Face Covering Requirement as Maine Reopens

Yesterday, Governor Janet Mills issued an Executive Order requiring large retail businesses, restaurants, outdoor bars, tasting rooms, and lodging establishments in Maine's more populous cities and coastal counties to enforce the State's face covering requirement.

The new Executive Order strengthens the enforcement component of the Governor's face covering requirement. The Executive Order comes as Maine continues to reopen its economy and welcome visitors from other states. Scientific evidence demonstrates that wearing a face covering can significantly reduce the transmission of COVID-19, helping protect the health and safety of Maine people.

The Order may be enforced by any governmental department or official that regulates licenses,

permits or otherwise authorizes the operation or occupancy of eating establishments, bars or tasting rooms, lodging operations and accommodations, businesses, buildings, parks and campgrounds. A violation may be construed to be a violation of any such license, permit and other authorization to which pertinent penalties, such as a revocation of said licenses or permits, may be assessed. The Administration has established [a reporting form](#) for alleged violations of the State's health and safety protocols and has provided financial enforcement support to municipalities.

Governor Mills also extended the State of Civil Emergency for thirty days through August 6, 2020. A State of Civil Emergency allows Maine to continue to draw down critical Federal resources and to deploy all available resources to respond to COVID-19. The Governor's decision to extend the emergency is in line with nearly every other state in the nation.

This is Governor Mills' fourth extension of the State of Civil Emergency. Under Maine law, State of Civil Emergency Proclamations may only be issued in thirty day increments. It comes as Maine is in Stage 3 of the [Restarting Maine's Economy Plan](#) and has reopened the vast majority of its economy. See the [Executive Order](#) and the [State of Civil Emergency Proclamation](#) online.

There is Still Time to Register for the Assisted Living Infection Control Program

MHCA has created a four-part, web-based educational program and corresponding toolkit (with infection prevention policy templates) specifically to support assisted housing providers in these efforts. The content aligns with CMS infection prevention practices, CDC guidance on outbreaks and surveillance and infection prevention best practices.

Date: July 13, July 14, July 20 & July 21, 2020

Times: 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM (Each Day)

Fee: \$99 per person

Contact Hours: 4.0 (1 hour per session)

Registration Link: [Click here to register TODAY!](#)

Highlights from Weekly CDC Call with Rita Owsiak and Carrie Rice

- NHSN Updated Definitions:
 - **Admissions count** has been revised to include admissions and readmissions of residents who were previously diagnosed with COVID-19 from another facility (*not just hospitalization*).
 - **Non-modifiable fields** have been added to each of the four pathway screens. Users will notice that each pathway now has three additional pieces of information displayed at the top of each pathway: Date Created, Facility CCN, and Facility Type.
 - **Soft Alerts:** counts that seem too high/low or inconsistent, will result in a pop-up message for the user as a reminder
- Communal Dining:
 - Communal dining for negative or asymptomatic residents is allowed with social distancing (6 feet) & shifts in dining room
 - Suspend communal dining for any unit under outbreak status
- Non-Essential Staff:
 - Non-essential staff are still restricted
- Outside Visits:
 - Essential visits (e.g., Doctor's visits): residents need to practice source control while out but don't need to quarantine when they return.
 - Admission/Readmission: if COVID-19 status is unknown, then would need to quarantine for 14 days and wear full PPE.
- Healthcare Workers (HCW) Traveling Out of State:
 - Human Resources should have a plan on the management of HCW returning from out of state visits.

Thank you for all you do to care for your residents and staff.

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